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Office of the Attorney General



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May 30, 2003

Honorable Sara Kyle
Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

RE: In Re: Petition of Tennessee American Water Company to Change and Increase Certain Rates and Charges So As to Permit it to Earn a Fair and Adequate Rate of Return on Its Property Used and Useful in Furnishing Water Service to Its Customers
Docket No. 03-00118

Dear Chairman Kyle:

Enclosed is an original and thirteen copies of the Direct Testimony of Steve N. Brown of the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General. Kindly file same in this docket. Copies are being sent to all parties of record. If you have any questions, kindly contact me at (615) 532-3382. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shilina B. Chatterjee
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures

cc: All Parties of Record

65466

Before the

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

**IN RE: PETITION OF TENNESSEE-AMERICAN
WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGE
IN RATES AND CHARGES
DOCKET NO. 03-00118**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
STEVE N. BROWN**

May 30, 2003

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I. Introduction

Q_1. Please state your name.

A_1. Steve Brown.

Q_2. Where do you work and what is your job title?

A_2. I am an Economist in the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General.

Q_3. What are your responsibilities as an Economist?

A_3. I review companies' petitions for rate changes and follow the economic conditions that affect the companies.

Q_4. What experience do you have regarding utilities?

A_4. From 1986 to 1995 I was employed by the Iowa Utilities Board as Chief of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Auditing and Research, and Utility Specialist and State Liaison Officer to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. From 1984 to 1986 I worked for Houston Lighting & Power as Supervisor of Rate Design. From 1982 to 1984 I worked for Arizona Electric Power Cooperative as a Rate Analyst. From 1979 to 1982 I worked for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association as Power Requirements Supervisor and Rate Specialist. From 1979 through 1995 my work spanned many issues including cost of service studies, rate design issues, telecommunications

1 issues and matters related to the disposal of
2 nuclear waste.

3
4 Q_5. What is your educational background?

5
6 A_5. I have an M.S. in Regulatory Economics from the
7 University of Wyoming, an M.A. and Ph.D. in
8 International Relations with a specialty in
9 International Economics from the University of
10 Denver, and a B.A. from Colorado State
11 University.

12
13 Q_6. Dr. Brown, have you authored any articles
14 relating to your profession?

15
16 A_6. Yes, my articles have appeared in Public
17 Utilities Fortnightly and the Electricity
18 Journal.

19
20 Q_7. Are you and have you been a member of any
21 professional organizations, Dr. Brown?

22
23 A_7. Yes, I am a past member of the NARUC Staff
24 Committee on Management Analysis, a past trustee
25 of and a member of the Board for the Automatic
26 Meter Reading Association, and a current member
27 of the National Association of Business
28 Economists.

29
30 Q_8. Have you studied mathematics and statistics as
31 part of your education?

32
33 A_8. Yes.

34
35 Q_9. Dr. Brown, do you use mathematics and statistics
36 in combination with economics as part of your
37 profession?

1 A_9. Yes.

2
3 Q_10. What were you asked to do with respect to this
4 case?

5
6 A_10. I was asked to form opinions on: 1) the
7 company's treatment of public fire service
8 pricing for the City of Chattanooga; 2) the
9 company's cost-of-capital which includes
10 determining the appropriate capital structure,
11 the appropriate market-based common equity
12 return, the cost of long-term-debt, and the
13 equity and debt ratios in the capital structure;
14 3) the cost-of-service allocations to the
15 various classes of customers; 4) to assist in
16 the evaluation of testimony offered by other
17 witnesses in this docket.
18

19 **II. Summary of Testimony**
20
21
22
23

24 Q_11. Please summarize your testimony.
25

26 A_11. My opinion is that \$1.1 million of the Company's
27 cost-of-service be allocated to the Company's
28 stockholders, rather than the ratepayers, in
29 accordance with the Tennessee Regulatory
30 Authority's order of January 11, 2000 approving
31 a settlement between the Company and the City of
32 Chattanooga.
33

34 My opinion is that Tennessee American (TnAm) be
35 treated as a subsidiary of the corporate parent
36 that actually controls capital flows to and from
37 the subsidiary and that sets the subsidiary's
38 pricing policies. It is my opinion that an

1 equity rate of 9.21% and a debt rate of 6% be
2 applied to the capital structure of RWE to give
3 a current weighted cost-of-capital for the
4 parent, whose weighted cost-of-capital is the
5 cost of the subsidiary's equity.
6

7 My opinion on the cost-of-equity is based on a
8 discounted cash flow analysis of 12 water supply
9 companies who file data with the Securities and
10 Exchange Commission and who currently have
11 publicly traded stock in American stock
12 exchanges. My opinion considers the current
13 returns being achieved in the market and the low
14 interest rate environment prevailing in the
15 United States and abroad. Based on the data I
16 have gathered and analyzed, in the past 12
17 months less than one-third of the publicly
18 traded companies in the United States achieved
19 an equity return at or above 11%, the return
20 requested by the Company. One-half of the
21 publicly traded companies achieved returns of
22 less than 6.3%, a rate almost equal to the cost-
23 of-debt prevailing in American markets today.
24

25 I have examined the methods employed in the
26 Company's cost-of-capital analysis. The Company
27 applies four different methods to two different
28 groups to develop eight different returns as
29 support for the requested return of 11%. My
30 opinion is that the Tennessee Regulatory
31 Authority disregard each and every return
32 because they are not based on comparable
33 companies, thus the returns are biased and
34 arbitrary, relying on equity returns and debt
35 returns that are not in the mainstream, as well
36 as relying on statistical practices that are not
37 general practice.

Also, my opinion is that if the final rates in this case are different than those rates currently in effect, then any change in TnAm's revenues produced by the difference in rates be allocated equally among the Company's revenue classes, because the Company has no means to know how each revenue class contributes to the need for maximum capacity on the water supply system.

III. The Company's Pricing of Public Fire Service to the City of Chattanooga

Q_12. What is the Company's position with regard to the public fire service?

A_12. The Company is continuing its current practice of charging the City about \$1.1 million less than the service's cost, as calculated by the Company. However, with regard to the other customers the Company seeks to change current practice by having them pay for the remaining \$1.1 million of the service's cost.

Q_13. Do you agree that the other classes should pay for the remaining costs of fire-service-protection?

A_13.

No. I disagree because the Authority specifically ordered the Company not to pass such costs on to ratepayers. In January 2000, the City and the Company sought the Authority's approval of a settlement, where the City terminated its effort to acquire and municipalize the Company's water business and in return the Company reduced its monthly fire-service-price from \$301 to \$50 per installation. Once the price decrease was fully implemented, it reduced the Company's annual revenue by \$1.1 million and created an annual savings of \$1.1 million for the City.

The Authority discussed the settlement and approved it conditionally. The conference transcript of January 11, 2000 shows the Authority's discussion commencing at page 16, where Director Greer asks the Company: "Can you assure me there will be no rate increase requested as a result of this loss of revenue?" A long discussion ensued with the Company replying: "Nobody is going to be able to say that we never will be able to come in for a rate increase." To which Director Greer replied: "I'm sorry...you're right. I fully understand what you're saying about that. What I'm wondering is if you're going to come in and ask for a rate increase to make up this lost revenue, this particular lost revenue." The Company replied with a definitive answer: "This particular loss will not -- is not occasioned for a rate increase." [See Tr. p. 18].

Then the Authority ruled:

1 "CHAIRMAN MALONE: It seems that the company has
2 represented that it will not in the future seek
3 to recover lost revenue in a rate case from the
4 ratepayer. With those responses, it would be my
5 inclination and I would move that we approve the
6 tariff, but that in so doing, we order that the
7 allocation of the lost revenue be to the
8 stockholders and not to the ratepayers whether
9 now or at such later time in the future."

10
11 "DIRECTOR KYLE: I vote yes. I'm in favor of
12 approving the Tennessee-American Water Company
13 Tariff Filing to reduce the fire hydrant charges
14 with a revenue loss allocated to the
15 stockholders."

16
17 Q_14. In the current docket, No. 03-00118, what has
18 the Company testified to regarding the public
19 fire service issue?

20
21 A_14. Mr. Miller states in his testimony at page 11
22 lines 13- 16: "...the Company has allocated
23 \$1.105 million of the public fire service
24 classification cost of service to other customer
25 classes..." He further states at page 12 lines 6-
26 13: "...the company has been able to more than
27 offset the reduction in public fire service
28 revenues by revenue growth and productivity
29 gains which are embedded in this case..."

30
31 Q_15. Do you agree with Mr. Miller's testimony that
32 "...the company has been able to more than offset
33 the reduction in public fire service revenues?"

34
35 A_15. No, I disagree with Mr. Miller because his
36 testimony is not an accurate rendering of the
37 economics of the Company's agreement with the
38 City. These economics were well understood by

1 the Authority as shown in its discussion and
2 order of January 11, 2000.

3
4 Q_16. What are the economics of the settlement between
5 the City and the Company?

6
7 A_16. The settlement established a permanent flow of
8 resources from the Company to the City where the
9 resources are valued at \$1.1 million annually.
10 It is as if the Company is sending cash in the
11 amount of \$1.1 million per year to the City on a
12 permanent basis. But rather than sending \$1.1
13 million of cash each year to the City, the
14 Company has achieved the same economic effect by
15 permanently reducing the public-fire-service-
16 price to the City.

17
18 Q_17. What evidence supports your conclusion about the
19 Company providing a permanent price reduction to
20 the City?

21
22 A_17. Evidence is available from different sources.
23 First, there is the transcript of the
24 Authority's January 11, 2000 Directors'
25 Conference. That record shows the Company
26 petitioning the Authority to allow the Company
27 to reduce its monthly price from \$301 to \$50 per
28 installation. No other price in the Company's
29 tariff was changed. From January 2001 through
30 May 2003, the Company passed about \$3.5 million
31 to the City via the price reduction.

32
33 However, the record provides no indication that
34 the Company's resource transfer is anything
35 other than permanent. There is no mention of a
36 "date certain" at which the revenue reduction
37 ends, nor is there any discussion of a specific
38 amount of cumulative revenue-reduction that

1 would be deemed as fully discharging the
2 Company's obligation to the City.

3
4
5 Additional compelling facts affirm that the
6 Company is committed to annually transferring
7 \$1.1 million to the City year after year.

8
9 By its own choosing the Company's rate filing of
10 February 7, 2003, maintains the annual \$1.1
11 million flow to the City, as Mr. Miller
12 testifies, since the Company is charging the
13 City only 25% of the calculated cost of fire
14 protection service.

15
16 The Authority, too, saw the Company's resource
17 transfer as permanent because the Authority's
18 Order has the effect of permanently protecting
19 other ratepayers from having to pay for the
20 Company's payments to the City, as clearly shown
21 in the order of January 11, 2000, "we order that
22 the allocation of the lost revenue be to the
23 stockholders and not to the ratepayers whether
24 now or at such later time in the future
25 [emphasis added By CAPD]."

26
27 But the Company is invoking the so-called
28 "Pennsylvania Approach," as Mr. Miller describes
29 at page 10 of his testimony, where every other
30 customer pays for the remaining 75% of public
31 fire service costs. This cost-recovery strategy
32 calls for a permanent increase in the rates of
33 other customers, the exact situation the
34 Authority foresaw and prevented by its Order.

35
36 The Authority's Order is consistent with City's
37 apparent intent that other ratepayers not have
38 to pay for the City's savings. On January 11,

2000 Chattanooga's mayor, Jon Kinsey told the Authority: "And I will add that at this point to answer specifically the question about why is this good for the ratepayers, number one, there is no increase in cost to any ratepayer at this point at all. Number two, not only the City of Chattanooga but the cities of Red Bank and East Ridge and many other local governmental entities will be saving a million dollars a year which gets passed on to those ratepayers as citizens and taxpayers."

Q_18.

What is your conclusion regarding Mr. Miller's assertion that the Company has been able "to more than offset the reduction in public fire service revenues?"

A_18.

I conclude it is inaccurate because it is contradictory. Mr. Miller claims the Company "has more than offset the reduction in public fire service revenues" while at the same time asking ratepayers other than the City to pay for the Company's annual \$1.1 revenue loss, a specific and particular revenue loss identified by the Authority and a loss that the Company agreed not to recover from ratepayers.

Q_19.

What is your recommendation regarding the "Pennsylvania Approach" and the Company's request to allocate 75% of fire service protection to customers other than the City?

A_19.

I recommend the Authority disregard the request and remove the \$1.1 million from the Company's revenue requirement.

1
2 **IV. CAPD's Opinion on the Company's Cost-**
3 **Of-Capital Analysis**
4
5
6
7
8
9

10
11 Q_20. What is your opinion on the Company's
12 recommended cost-of-capital?
13

14 A_20. My opinion is that it is not just and
15 reasonable. I have three reasons for my opinion:
16

17 1) The Company's analysis ignores the parent-
18 subsidiary relationship between the corporate
19 parent, RWE, and its subsidiary, Tennessee
20 American (TnAm).
21

22 2) The Company's analysis uses companies that
23 are not comparable to the water company: gas
24 distribution companies, electric utilities and
25 other companies are used as proxies for the
26 water company, even though the water supply
27 business is TnAm's sole enterprise activity.
28

29 3) The recommended rates, 11% for equity and
30 8.56% overall, overstate the prevailing rates of
31 return in the American economy.
32

33 **IV. A. The Parent-Subsidiary Relationship**
34
35
36
37
38

1 Q_21. How is TnAm a subsidiary of RWE?

2
3 A_21. The parent, RWE, owns 100% of TnAm's common
4 stock, therefore, the parent has the final say
5 on capital flows to and from the subsidiary.
6 Although American Water Works (AWW) is no longer
7 the parent, there is ample evidence in the
8 financial history of TnAm showing it was always
9 treated as a subsidiary and under the parent's
10 control.

11
12 Q_22. What evidence supports your opinion that the
13 parent controls the subsidiary?

14
15 A_22. For example, CAPD Interrogatory 55 asked TnAm
16 "to provide the amount of dividends paid... as a
17 percentage... of earnings, to its parent... for
18 1997 through 2002." TnAm replied: "1997 - 68.4%,
19 1998 - 75.8%, 1999 - 108.8%, 2000 - 72.8%, 2001
20 - 81.8%, 2002 - 76.5%." The pattern itself, and
21 particularly the 108.8% figure in 1999, where
22 the parent declared more dividends to itself
23 from the subsidiary than the subsidiary earned,
24 demonstrates that capital moves at the parent's
25 discretion, not the subsidiary's. Therefore, the
26 cost-of-capital awarded in this docket is
27 actually being awarded to the parent, which
28 redirects that award at its discretion to the
29 subsidiary. The Tennessee Public Service
30 Commission recognized TnAm's subsidiary status
31 in the Commission's Final Order in Docket U-85-
32 7338:

33
34 "The Company argues that the Commission
35 should...ignore the parent-subsidiary
36 relationship ...[but] all of its stock is
37 financed by its parent corporation...the

1 Commission adopts the double leverage capital
2 structure...[Final Order U-85-7338, pp. 16-18]."

3
4 **Q_23. Do you have reason to believe that TnAm will**
5 **continue to be treated as a subsidiary?**

6
7 **A_23.** Yes. In January 2003 AWW was purchased by a
8 European company, RWE. According to a form 14A
9 filed by AWW with the U.S. Securities and
10 Exchange Commission on December 5, 2001:

11
12 "Upon the consummation of the merger,
13 stockholders of American Water Works will have
14 no further interest in the surviving
15 corporation....In the merger, a wholly owned
16 indirect subsidiary of RWE will merge into
17 American Water Works with American Water Works
18 continuing as the surviving corporation.
19 American Water Works will become the Americas
20 division of RWE's water business and it will
21 operate under the name American Water
22 Works....As a result of the merger, we will
23 cease to be an independent, publicly traded
24 company and will become an indirect, wholly
25 owned subsidiary of RWE."

26
27 **Q_24. What is the implication of the parent-subsidiary**
28 **relationship regarding the cost-of-capital in**
29 **this case?**

30
31 **A_24.** Given this clear evidence of the parent
32 controlling the subsidiary, it is also clear
33 that RWE's capital structure is required to have
34 an accurate cost-of-equity.

35
36 Unfortunately, TnAm's cost-of-capital analysis
37 does not recognize or include RWE's capital
38 structure. The only capital structure in TnAm's

1 filing proposed rate is the subsidiary's
2 proposed capital structure, shown in Sheila A.
3 Valentine Exhibit No. 3 Schedule 1, Page 1 of 1.
4

5 In that Exhibit, under the column titled "Cost
6 Rate," the figure of 11% appears as the cost of
7 common equity and retained earnings. My cost-of-
8 capital analysis replaces the 11% figure with my
9 estimation of RWE's weighted-cost-of-capital.
10 Therefore, a major issue in this case is the
11 determination of RWE's capital structure, to
12 which the recommended returns will apply.
13

14 Q_25. Did TnAm know that CAPD would raise the parent-
15 subsidiary and "double-leverage" issues?
16

17 A_25. Yes. In response to their first discovery
18 request in April CAPD provided TnAm copies of
19 two papers that discussed double leverage.
20

21 Also, CAPD's first discovery request, item 54
22 requested: "provide the capital structure of
23 Tennessee-American's parent company, RWE, for
24 the attrition year."
25

26 Q_26. When did CAPD request RWE's capital structure?
27

28 A_26. CAPD requested that information in its first
29 discovery request sent approximately April 16.
30

31 Q_27. Were you provided with the capital structure in
32 response to your request?
33

34 A_27. No, not fully.
35

36 Q_28. What were you provided with?
37

1 **A_28.** CAPD was provided with RWE's consolidated
2 balance sheet, which provides a broad indication
3 of what RWE's capital structure might look like
4 but lacks detail. That consolidated balance
5 sheet is shown is attached to my testimony as
6 Schedule 1, page 1,
7

8 The balance sheet reflected European accounting
9 standards in the sense that there was no clear
10 delineation of what figures represented equity
11 and what figures represented debt. For example,
12 in Schedule 1 there is no definition of the term
13 "provisions", which comprises nearly half of the
14 balance sheet's value.
15

16 **Q_29.** **Is the term "capital structure" an obscure term**
17 **in the financial world?**
18

19 **A_29.** No, the term is not obscure and has an accepted
20 meaning, where the full value of debt and equity
21 are presented along with the costs of equity and
22 debt. With that information, a company's
23 weighted cost-of-capital can be computed, which
24 includes debt and equity and their respective
25 costs. A good example of a capital structure
26 format is the Company's proposed capital
27 structure, shown in Sheila A. Valentine Exhibit
28 No. 3 Schedule 1, Page 1 of 1.
29

30 **Q_30.** **Was RWE's consolidated balance sheet sufficient**
31 **to develop a capital structure for RWE?**
32

33 **A_30.** No. Therefore, CAPD made further requests.
34

35 **Q_31.** **Why is it necessary to acquire RWE's capital**
36 **structure?**
37

A_31. RWE's capital structure is required because public records provide further evidence that the power to set prices for water supply service resides with RWE, not its subsidiary.

For example, on May 9, 2002 AWW filed a form 8-k with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The report quotes from a speech given by AWW's CEO, who discussed the prospective impact of RWE's ownership. The CEO explicitly acknowledged RWE as having the final say on any subsidiary's proposed prices for water service:

"Our long experience with and deep respect for the economic regulatory process continues to guide us. We knew, early on, that... significant questions - and our responses - would be the central focus of the regulatory review and approval process.... How will this transaction impact rates? RWE has clearly stated -- strongly and consistently -- that it will not seek to recover the purchase price premium in rates."

Q_32. What additional requests did CAPD make?

A_32. CAPD followed up its first discovery request, item 54, with more data requests in CAPD's second discovery request: items 9 through 13, which requested detailed information on the nonequity portions of the balance sheet.

For example, CAPD requested a description of the "provisions" section: What was it composed of? What carrying rate was assigned to it? Regarding the liabilities section of the balance sheet, CAPD asked for the interest rates on notes or bonds carried in the liabilities section, if the debt was senior or subordinated, as well as the

1 terms and conditions of the debt including tier
2 requirements and other items.
3

4 Q_33. What were the first replies CAPD received in
5 response to its further inquiries?
6

7 A_33. With regard to the question about "provisions",
8 the Company responded, "there are no debt issues
9 in" provisions. With regard to the request for
10 interest rates on the notes or bonds, the
11 Company responded with the terms "fixed" and
12 "floating."
13

14 Q_34. Were those responses sufficient to develop a
15 capital structure for RWE?
16

17 A_34. No, they were not sufficient.
18

19 Q_35. When did CAPD receive the information it
20 requested?
21

22 A_35. On May 21 CAPD received descriptions of the
23 items in "provisions." On May 23 CAPD received
24 the interest rates on RWE's debt and the
25 carrying charge that RWE applies to
26 "provisions."
27

28 Schedule 1, page 2 shows RWE's consolidated
29 balance sheet converted to U.S. dollars based on
30 the average exchange rate for Euros to dollars
31 between March 15 and May 15. Schedule 1, page 2
32 also shows RWE's consolidated capital structure
33 split between debt and equity, the relative
34 proportions of debt and equity, and the cost of
35 each.
36

1 Schedule 1, page 3 shows the individual notes,
2 with their interest rates, the currency of the
3 loan, and the conversion rates.
4

5 Schedule 1, page 4 shows RWE's balance sheet
6 (not its consolidated balance sheet) in euros.
7

8 Q_36. What is the difference between RWE's
9 consolidated balance sheet and RWE's balance
10 sheet?
11

12 A_36. The consolidated statement provides figures that
13 represent a "netting out" of the cash and
14 capital flows between the parent and the
15 subsidiary while at the same time accumulating
16 the balances in the asset and liability
17 accounts.
18

19 For example, RWE's consolidated balance sheet
20 has a value of 100 billion euros but the balance
21 sheet of RWE alone has a value of 39 billion
22 euros. The equity portion of the consolidated
23 balance sheet is approximately 9 billion euros,
24 and the equity portion of the RWE alone is about
25 4 billion euros.
26

27
28 Q_37. What is your opinion about the nature of the
29 term "provisions" in RWE's balance sheet?
30

31 A_37. In my opinion "provisions" are debt because the
32 amounts cannot be claimed by RWE's equity
33 holders. Also, the Company assigns a carrying
34 rate of 6% to provisions, a rate that
35 corresponds to the Company's cost of long-term-
36 debt, which is a bit under 6%.
37

1 Q_38. What does the difference in the two balance
2 sheets mean with regard to developing a weighted
3 cost-of-capital for RWE?
4

5 A_38. With regard to developing a weighted cost-of-
6 capital for RWE, both balance sheets have
7 approximately the same ratios of debt and
8 equity: Approximately 10% equity and 90% debt.
9 RWE's balance sheets demonstrate that it
10 operates at unusually low levels of equity in
11 comparison to an American company in the utility
12 business.
13

14 Q_39. What is RWE?
15

16 A_39. RWE is an international conglomerate having
17 various operations in water, mining, nuclear
18 power plants, natural gas and electricity
19 production in several countries.
20

21 Q_40. Is RWE listed in any stock exchange in the
22 United States?
23

24 A_40. No. It is not listed.
25

26 Q_41. Does RWE have stock that can be traded?
27

28 A_41. Yes. RWE has stock that can be traded, but RWE
29 is considered an "Over the Counter Stock," or
30 OTC. An OTC stock is one that cannot meet the
31 minimum requirements set by the stock exchanges
32 themselves to list a stock for the purpose of
33 public trading. OTC stocks trade irregularly, in
34 the sense that brokers have to call each other
35 and makes trades. There is no public record of
36 the trade, the prices and volumes.
37

38 Q_42. What is RWE's current financial condition?

1
2 **A_42.**

Apparently RWE is considered to be in difficulty. For example, In a brief search on the internet I found these comments in trade journals "RWE has said debt will soar to 26 billion euros in 2003, more than double its 10.66 billion euro market value, which has unsettled investors and helped drag...", and "RWE: big debt, little added value" and "RWE gives up global ambitions." These quotations suggest that RWE is struggling with a large debt load or at least perceived as struggling. The perception is consistent with RWE's balance sheets.

14
15 **Q_43.**

What is the economic implication of RWE's financial condition regarding its treatment of subsidiaries?

18
19 **A_43.**

RWE's current financial condition means it is hard pressed to cut costs and raise revenues throughout its entire organization. This economic behavior is normal and ongoing in any enterprise, but it is to be expected that RWE will have its newly acquired subsidiaries play their part in restoring the Company's vitality.

26
27 **Q_44.**

Does TnAm's cost-of-capital analysis include any reference to a parent-subsidiary relationship?

29
30 **A_44.**

Yes. Mr. Moul, who prepared the Company's cost-of-capital analysis, testifies at page 3 lines 17-24: "I have not analyzed the market data for American Water Works Company, Inc. ('AWW'), which is the parent company of TAWC, because it is currently the target of an acquisition. On September 16, 2001 AWW entered into an agreement with RWE...Since that time, AWW's stock reflects the pending acquisition premium."

1
2 Q_45. When did TnAm file its case with the Authority?

3
4 A_45. TnAm filed its case on February 7, 2003.

5
6 Q_46. Was AWW the parent company at the time of the
7 filing?

8
9 A_46. No. AWW was not the parent company at the time
10 of the filing.

11
12 Q_47. Who was the parent company at the time of the
13 filing?

14
15 A_47. RWE was the parent company at the time of the
16 filing.

17
18 Q_48. When did RWE become the parent company of TnAm?

19
20 A_48. RWE became the parent on January 9, 2003.

21
22 Q_49. Does Mr. Moul's analysis include any
23 consideration of the parent-subsidiary
24 relationship between RWE and TnAm?

25
26 A_49. No. Mr. Moul's analysis does not consider the
27 parent-subsidiary relationship between RWE and
28 TnAm.

29
30 Q_50. Do you believe that the relationship should be
31 considered?

32
33 A_50. Yes. I believe the relationship should be
34 considered and fully included in the cost-of-
35 capital analysis.

36
37 Q_51. What is your opinion regarding the inclusion of
38 RWE in a ac cost-of-capital analysis?
39

1 A_51. In my opinion it should be included because of
2 the clear evidence of RWE's control over TnAm.
3

4 **IV. B. The Company's Recommended Rates**
5 **Are Not In the Mainstream Market-**
6 **based Returns in the United States.**
7

8
9
10
11
12
13 Q_52. Is the Company's requested return a just and
14 reasonable cost-of-equity?
15

16 A_52. No. In my opinion the requested return of 11% is
17 not a just and reasonable cost-of-equity. I
18 disagree with the TnAm's analysis because the
19 recommended rate, 11% for equity, overstates the
20 prevailing return on equity in the American
21 economy, and the prevailing return on equity in
22 the water supply business. This is contrary to
23 the expectation created in anticipation of RWE's
24 purchase of AWW. For example, in an SEC form 8-K
25 filed May 9, 2002, by AWW, its president said:
26

27 "Joining with industry leaders like RWE/Thames
28 will deliver the additional benefits of size and
29 reach for our customers. They will benefit from
30 the increased capacity to attract capital at a
31 lower cost..."
32

33 This is consistent with including RWE in the
34 cost-of-capital analysis because the parent is
35 able to finance its debt at 6%, significantly
36 lower rates than the debt cost shown by the

Company in Sheila A. Valentine Exhibit No. 3
Schedule 1, Page 1 of 1.

IV. B.1. The Current Equity Market

Q_53. What is the prevailing equity return in the market?

A_53. The prevailing return on equity in our economy appears in Schedule 2 attached to my testimony. Page 1 shows a range of equity returns for approximately 5600 companies in the past year compiled by MorningStar, a data base firm that maintains a data base on stocks, mutual funds and tracks their performance. Its information can be accessed through the internet.

Nearly one-half of the stocks achieved equity returns of less than 6%. The exact middle of that distribution is 6.3%. Less than one-third achieved returns higher than 11%, which is the Company's requested return.

Q_54. Does Schedule 2 include the returns of companies that are regulated?

A_54. Yes. Schedule 2 includes the returns of companies that are regulated.

Q_55. Does Schedule 2 include the returns of companies that are not regulated?

1 A_55. Yes. Schedule 2 page 1 includes the returns of
2 companies that are not regulated.
3

4 Q_56. Is there any reason to believe that the returns
5 of regulated companies are automatically lower
6 than the returns of nonregulated companies?
7

8 A_56. No. There is no reason whatsoever to believe
9 that the returns of regulated companies are
10 automatically lower than the returns of
11 nonregulated companies.
12

13 For example, Schedule 2 page 1 shows that
14 approximately 2050 stocks had equity returns of
15 less than 1% in the past 12 months. Schedule 2
16 page 2 provides an alpha-numeric ordered listing
17 of about 50 of those companies, in order by
18 number, such as "1-800-Contacts" to " Wynn
19 Resorts" to "Zygo." All but one of these
20 companies are nonregulated.
21

22 Q_57. What is the economic meaning of Schedule 2 with
23 regard to determining the cost-of-equity in this
24 case?
25

26 A_57. With regard to the cost-of-equity in this case
27 Schedule 2 proves that TnAm's "Comparable
28 Earnings Approach," described at pages 38-39 of
29 Mr. Moul's testimony, is arbitrary.
30

31 For example, Mr. Moul testifies:
32

33 "In order to identify the appropriate return on
34 equity for a public utility, it is necessary to
35 analyze returns experienced by other firms
36 within the context of the Comparable Earnings
37 standard. The firms selected for the Comparable
38 Earnings approach should be companies whose

1 prices are not subject to cost-based price
2 ceilings (i.e., non-regulated firms) so that
3 circularity is avoided. To avoid circularity, it
4 is essential that returns achieved under
5 regulation not provide the basis for a regulated
6 return. Because regulated firms must compete
7 with non-regulated firms in the capital markets,
8 it is appropriate, if not necessary, to view the
9 returns experienced by firms which operate in
10 competitive markets. One must keep in mind that
11 the rates of return for non-regulated firms
12 represent results on book value actually
13 achieved or expected to be achieved because the
14 starting point of calculations is the actual
15 experience of companies that are not subject to
16 rate regulation."

17
18
19 The clear implication of Mr. Moul's testimony is
20 that regulated firms always fare worse than the
21 nonregulated. Thus he chooses a level of 14% as
22 representative of nonregulated companies'
23 earnings, shown in Mr. Moul's analysis at page 4
24 line 18. This result is based on the historical
25 performance of about 50 companies he lists in
26 his testimony, Exhibit PRM-2, page 31 of 31,
27 Schedule 12[2 of 2].

28
29 However, the assumptions that these firms
30 represent nonregulated companies, or that
31 regulated firms always or systematically fare
32 worse than the nonregulated, are not true.

33
34 All but one of the firms shown in Schedule 2 of
35 my testimony are regulated. I could just as well
36 apply the "Comparable Earnings Approach" to them
37 and derive a remarkably low rate of return in
38 this case and claim the return is based on

1 nonregulated firms in the market. That would be
2 accurate but just as arbitrary as what Mr. Moul
3 has done in his comparable earnings analysis.
4

5 Q_58. What is your opinion regarding the "Comparable
6 Earnings Approach" as a method to determine the
7 cost-of-equity in this case?
8

9 A_58. My opinion is to disregard the "Comparable
10 Earnings Approach" because it is arbitrary and
11 not based on the establishment of comparable
12 companies, a long-standing regulatory principle
13 which has the effect of reigning-in the
14 arbitrary determination of equity costs.
15
16

17 **IV. B.2. THE CURRENT LONG-TERM-DEBT**
18 **MARKET**
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

26 Q_59. What long-term-debt rates does Mr. Moul use in
27 the Company's analysis?
28

29 A_59. Mr. Moul uses long-term-debt rates for bonds
30 ranging in grade from AAA, the highest rating,
31 to BAA, a midlevel rating. The most expensive
32 bond in Mr. Moul's debt data is 8.36% for a BAA
33 bond. The least expensive bond in Mr. Moul's
34 debt data is 6.98% for a AAA bond. His debt data
35 appear in his Schedule PRM-2, Page 18 of 31,
36 Schedule 9[2 of 5]. He also provides long term
37 rate forecasts in his direct testimony at page
38 32 lines 3-11, where the forecasts reach a high

1 of 8% for BAA rated bonds in the first quarter
2 of 2004, about 9 months from now.
3

4 Q_60. Do you agree that the long-term-debt rates in
5 Mr. Moul's analysis are representative of
6 current and future conditions?
7
8

9 A_60. No, I disagree. The prevailing return to long-
10 term-debt is approximately 6% and declining. My
11 Schedule 3 displays a range of long-term-debt
12 returns in descending order for approximately 90
13 categories monitored by Federal Reserve Data.
14 The highest figure is 7.8%, the annual average in
15 2002 for bonds rated as BAA, the lowest bond
16 rating considered by Mr. Moul. However, the rate
17 for BAA bonds declined to 6.93% by the second
18 Friday in April 2003, and bonds rated AAA
19 declined to 5.81% by the second Friday in April
20 2003. These figures prove that the Federal
21 Reserve's policy --lowering interest rates and
22 keeping them low -- is still having an impact on
23 the economy and there is no sign that such
24 impacts are over.
25

26 For example, the Federal Reserve's data shows
27 states and local government issuing general
28 obligation bonds at 4.76%, and conventional 30
29 year real estate loans being offered at 5.85%.
30 All of these rates are much lower than the debt
31 cost used by the Company.
32

33 Q_61. Is there any guarantee that interest rates won't
34 rise in the future?
35

36 A_61. No, there is no guarantee that interest rates
37 will not rise. However, economic expectations
38 are groomed and changed slowly over a long

1 period of time. That is why interest rates
2 changes occur gradually over several months.
3

4 Schedule 4 is a copy of a recent newspaper
5 article demonstrating how the Federal Reserve
6 signals or hints at its future intent. The
7 Federal Board sets rates as a matter of policy
8 and is not interested in creating economic
9 turmoil through a series of gyrating interest
10 rate changes that create economic instability.
11 The Federal Reserve Board is unlikely to lower
12 rates one month, just to raise them the next, or
13 to raise the interest rate from 2% to 6%
14 overnight or even in a matter of months.
15

16 The Federal Reserve Board's data that I have
17 shown in Schedule 3 show various long term
18 securities being issued between 5% and 6% for
19 10, 20, 25 and 30 years. All the banks, mortgage
20 lenders, homebuyers and businesses who have
21 entered into long term transactions are betting
22 that current interest rate conditions will
23 prevail for the foreseeable future, as are RWE's
24 lenders, who have obviously lent substantial
25 sums in the long term at rates approximating 6%.
26

27 The Federal Reserve Board policy of lowering
28 interest rates and keeping them low is explicit
29 and very visible to business, the media, and the
30 public in general. Therefore, it is reasonable
31 to expect utilities' cost-of capital to embody
32 the influences of a lower-interest rate economy.
33 However, a utility is not "locked in" to a cost-
34 of-capital if the interest rate environment
35 changes because a regulated utility has the
36 discretion to file its rate case as needed.
37
38

1 Q_62. What is your opinion regarding the long-term-
2 debt rates in Mr. Moul's analysis?
3

4 A_62. In my opinion the long-term-debt rates in Mr.
5 Moul's analysis should be disregarded because
6 they are not representative of current rates,
7 rates in the foreseeable future, nor
8 representative of the long-term-debt rates of
9 RWE, which has a debt cost of less than 6%, as
10 shown in Schedule 1 of my testimony.
11
12

13 **IV. C. Comparable Companies Should Be In**
14 **the Water Supply Business**
15
16
17
18
19
20

21 Q_63. What is the appropriate way to develop an
22 estimate of equity cost when RWE has no stock
23 traded in American exchanges and TnAm has no
24 presence in the stock market?
25

26 A_63. In my opinion the best and appropriate way to
27 develop an estimate is to choose an appropriate
28 group of comparable companies that are in the
29 water supply business.
30

31 Q_64. What evidence supports your opinion that the
32 water supply business should be the basis for
33 developing comparable companies?
34

35 A_64. The evidence is offered by the former parent
36 company, AWW. For example, according to the SEC
37 form 8-K already cited in my testimony, the
38 president of AWW told shareholders:

1 "The future direction of the company was forever
2 changed last year, and the value of our
3 franchise was substantially affirmed, when
4 shareholders, by an 80 percent approval rate,
5 accepted the offer from RWE AG...By the first half
6 of next year, we have every expectation of
7 joining forces with multinational RWE AG, and,
8 in fact, American Water Works people will be
9 leading the North and South American Region of
10 the water division. In that incredible
11 collaboration, we will become part of a global
12 enterprise premised on the same value upon which
13 a much smaller company was founded. This action
14 confirms the universal value of providing
15 dependable water service; only this time we'll
16 be part of a global enterprise!"
17
18

19 The water supply business is the sole enterprise
20 activity of Tennessee-American and the business
21 that the Company will continue to engage in. But
22 despite the clearly defined scope of business,
23 the Company's cost-of-capital analysis employs
24 gas companies, as proxies for the water company.
25 But they are not in the water supply business
26 and, therefore, are not comparable to the water
27 company.
28
29
30

31 **V. Determination Of Comparable**
32 **Companies: Comparison of CAPD's**
33 **Methods with the Company's Methods**
34
35
36
37

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 Q_65. What were your procedures to identify comparable
9 companies in your analysis?

10
11
12 A_65. I examined the United States Securities and
13 Exchange Commission's on-line data base of all
14 companies which file forms and data with the
15 SEC. The data base covers all SEC filings from
16 1994 forward. I found several companies that the
17 SEC identifies as being in the water supply
18 business, but only 13 have publicly traded stock
19 as of 2003. Twelve of the companies sole or
20 principal business activity is water supply. The
21 thirteenth company, Vivendi, at one time limited
22 its activity to the water supply business, but
23 in the middle to late 1990s the company expanded
24 its business to include a movie studio, theme
25 parks, telecom businesses, digital music
26 acquisitions, cable networks, and a publisher.
27 Vivendi is considered and evaluated by the
28 market as media conglomerate.

29
30 Except for Vivendi, I consider all of the water
31 companies identified by the SEC as being
32 comparable companies because they are in the
33 water supply business and their stock is
34 publicly traded on stock exchanges in the United
35 States. Also, I found no information that
36 suggested they were not comparable.
37

1 Q_66. Are your comparable companies identical to those
2 companies used in TnAm's cost-of-capital
3 analysis?
4

5 A_66. No. I use twelve water companies, but TnAm uses
6 only 6 water companies and 10 natural gas
7 companies.
8

9 Q_67. Is your group of 12 water companies different
10 from the 6 water companies used by TnAm.
11

12 A_67. Yes. My group is different because it is
13 comprehensive including not only the 6 companies
14 used by TnAm, but 6 more that TnAm chose to
15 ignore.
16

17 In Schedule 5 I have listed my comparable
18 companies and the water companies used by TnAm.
19 Column 1 lists the names of the companies which
20 have filed with the SEC, column 2 provides a
21 "YES" or a "NO" to indicate if the company ever
22 had stock that was traded in American markets,
23 column 3 provides a "YES" or a "NO" to indicate
24 if the company's stock continues to be traded.
25 Column 4 lists the water company's name, the
26 stock exchange where the company is listed and
27 the company's stock symbol. Columns 5 lists a
28 "YES" or a "NO" to indicate if I used the
29 company in my analysis. Column 6 indicates why I
30 chose not to use the company. Column 7 indicates
31 if the company was used in TnAm's analysis.
32 Column 8 lists the reasons TnAm did not use the
33 company.
34

35 Q_68. What is TnAm's justification for not using the
36 six water companies, that you used?
37

A_68. The justification appears in Mr. Moul's testimony at page 11 lines 19-24. Four companies were not used because their data is not in Value Line, which is Mr. Moul's data source. One of those four companies is Pennichuck, which according to Mr. Moul reduced its dividend and "is presently the target of an acquisition by Philadelphia suburban Corporation." Two other companies which I use, Consolidated Water and Southwest Water, are not mentioned by Mr. Moul.

Q_69. Do you agree with the TnAm's justification for not using those companies?

A_69. No, I disagree. Value Line's lack of coverage is not a fair or good reason to ignore water companies that are covered by other data sources. Also, Pennichuck's potential merger remains a potential until the merger is complete.. For example, for several months in the year 2000 American Water Works was going to merge with SJW and then March 1, 2001, both parties "immediately" terminated their agreement. Schedule 6 is a copy of AWW's press release announcing the merger's termination. SJW is still a publicly traded stock, but if being a target of a merger affects a company's perceived performance, then surely SJW's historical data and current valuation bears the indelible mark of once being targeted for acquisition. However, I don't agree with this assessment. If SJW is a comparable company, then Pennichuck is, too.

More importantly, it is contradictory for Mr. Moul to ignore 4 water companies that he knew of, and then say in his testimony at page 3 lines 27-30: "Natural gas distribution companies

1 provide additional evidence of the cost-of-
2 equity in this case because the number of water
3 companies with traded stock continues to decline
4 due to consolidation."
5

6 This justification is even less persuasive
7 considering that two additional water companies
8 were not examined by Mr. Moul, even though they
9 are listed on American stock exchanges, publicly
10 traded, and listed in the SEC's publicly
11 available data. TnAm could have used 12 water
12 companies in its analysis but chose not to
13 primarily because 6 of these water companies
14 were not in Value Line. Since TnAm did not
15 utilize all water supply companies, there is no
16 good reason to use 10 gas companies to estimate
17 the cost-of-equity for a business that is
18 exclusively in the water supply business.
19

20 **Q_70. What criteria does Mr. Moul use to select gas**
21 **companies?**
22

23 **A_70.** Mr. Moul lists his criteria: "The Gas
24 Distribution Group companies have the following
25 common characteristics: (i) they are listed
26 Edition 3 of The Value Line Investment Survey in
27 the section 'Natural Gas Distribution Industry,'
28 (ii) their stock is publicly-traded on the New
29 York Stock Exchange, (iii) They have not reduced
30 or omitted their dividend, (iv) they operate in
31 the Northeastern, Great Lakes, and Southeastern
32 regions of the U.S., and (v) they are not
33 currently involved in a publicly-announced
34 merger or acquisition."
35

36 **Q_71. Do you agree these criteria could be used as to**
37 **find gas companies that could be substitutes for**
38 **water companies?**

A_71.

No, I disagree because each criterion is arbitrary and unable to specify gas companies that could substitute for water companies.

For example, relying totally on Value Line as a data source is sure to provide a less than full picture of an industry, as I have just demonstrated with regard to the water supply business. Limiting gas companies to those traded on the New York Stock Exchange is contradictory because only three water companies in TnAm's water group are traded on the NYSE. Two others are traded on NASDAQ and one is traded on AMEX.

Also, imposing a geographic limit, such as confining gas companies to those that operate in the "Northeastern, Great Lakes, and Southeastern" regions, is not apt because SJW, used in my analysis and in Mr. Moul's, is in California. The notion of omitting companies that have reduced or omitted dividends is nothing more than arbitrarily choosing to ignore bad news. The last criterion, "not currently involved in a publicly-announced merger or acquisition" is not tenable because "publicly announced" is not defined. This is an especially unhelpful criterion because the SEC requires filings by any group of individuals who own stock in a company and who could bring about a merger. These filings are public and are filed according to Sections 13 and 16 of the Securities Exchange Act.

Regarding the natural gas companies chosen by TnAm as proxies, my Schedule 7 lists those companies' filings from 2001 through 2003 required by the Securities and Exchange

1 Commission whenever there is a "change of
2 beneficial ownership" of a company's stock and
3 the portion of stock involved is potentially
4 large enough to establish a takeover or a
5 merger. There is plenty of insider activity and
6 reshuffling of stock ownership in the gas-proxy-
7 companies to suggest that some of those
8 companies are on the cusp of mergers or
9 acquisitions. Since this information is public,
10 it suggests that a public announcement of a
11 merger is the last act in a very visible process
12 and not a reliable criterion to establish
13 comparability.
14

15
16 **Q_72.** Does the market view the gas and water
17 industries as equivalent, where one group could
18 be substituted for the other?
19

20 **A_72.** No. I base my answer on the so-called "betas" of
21 the water and gas companies in TnAm's analysis.
22

23 **Q_73.** What is a beta?
24

25 **A_73.** It is a ratio of the change in a stock price to
26 the change in the overall market price or index,
27 and there are three possibilities. For example,
28 if a market index increases by 10 percent and a
29 stock price increases 5 percent, then the
30 stock's beta is .5 or one-half. On the other
31 hand, if a market index increases by 10 percent
32 and a stock price decreases 5 percent, then the
33 stock's beta is a negative one-half. Finally, if
34 a market index changes and the stock price does
35 not change, the stock's beta is zero.
36

37 **Q_74.** What economic meaning is normally assigned to
38 the beta?

1
2 A_74. It is regarded as a measure of risk, the higher
3 the beta, the higher the risk.
4

5 Q_75. Does the TnAms' cost-of-capital analysis use
6 betas?
7

8 A_75. Yes.
9

10 Q_76. What is the source of TnAm's betas?
11

12 A_76. TnAm uses Value Line betas.
13

14 Q_77. What role do Value Line Betas have in Mr. Moul's
15 analysis with regard to his selection of
16 comparable companies?
17

18 A_77. The Value Line Betas carry the implication that
19 the water and gas companies are indeed
20 comparable because they have similar betas. For
21 example, in his testimony at page 16, lines 9 to
22 20, Mr. Moul implies comparability when he
23 states "A comparison of market risk is shown by
24 Value Line Betas, .55 as the average for the
25 Water Group,..., .67 as the average for the Gas
26 Distribution Group."
27

28 Q_78. Do you agree that Value Line betas show
29 comparable risk between the water and gas
30 companies?
31

32 A_78. No. I disagree because Value Line's betas
33 inflate the measure of risk and are not standard
34 practice in the financial industry. My Schedule
35 8 provides a comparison of Value Line betas with
36 other betas. The far left column lists the
37 companies, and columns 1 through 4 list betas
38 from the financial sources on the internet.

1 Column 5 lists my calculation of the beta and
2 column 6 lists Value Line's beta. With the
3 exception of on company, SJW, Value Line's betas
4 are substantially higher than all others.
5 Clearly, Value Line's betas are not standard
6 practice. My calculations give results
7 consistent with standard practice.
8

9 Q_79. **What is the effect of Value Line's betas on the**
10 **estimated cost-of-capital?**

11
12 A_79. Value Line's beta always lead to an overestimate
13 of risk and an overestimate of capital cost.
14

15 Q_80. **How does Value Line calculate its betas?**

16
17 A_80. Value Line reduces the calculated beta by one-
18 third and then adds .35 to produce a beta. This
19 adjustment to the calculated beta makes low
20 betas look higher than they really are. Schedule
21 9 of my testimony shows the relationship between
22 a calculated beta and the Value Line Beta.
23

24 Q_81. **Do the water and gas industries appear**
25 **comparable when the normal beta is used instead**
26 **of the Value Line beta?**
27

28 A_81. No, the water and gas industries appear
29 noncomparable and less risky when the Value Line
30 beta is replaced with the normal one. For
31 example, the normal beta for the Water Group
32 would be .30, if Value Line did not make its
33 adjustments to the calculation, instead of .55,
34 the figure Mr. Moul uses, and the beta for the
35 Gas Group would be .50 instead of .67. The risk
36 measure drops for both industries and the water
37 group risk shrinks more than the gas group's.
38

1 Q_82. Why do financial reporting services, such as
2 those you reference in your Schedule 8 not
3 follow Value Line's example?
4

5 A_82. Financial reporting services do not follow Value
6 Line's example, because, in my opinion, it is
7 common knowledge that Value Line's betas are
8 overestimates, and AWW offers perfect example of
9 Value Line's overestimation. At page 3 lines 19
10 to 25 of his testimony Mr. Moul explains why he
11 did not use AWW: "On September 16, 2001 AWW
12 [American Water Works] entered into an agreement
13 [to] merge...The cash purchase price of [the]
14 stock represented a 36.5% premium over the
15 stock's average price for 30 days prior to the
16 announcement. Since that time AWW's stock
17 reflects the pending acquisition and it would be
18 unsuitable to measure the cost-of-equity in this
19 case."
20

21 Q_83. Do you agree with Mr. Moul's decision to keep
22 AWW out of the cost-of-capital analysis?
23

24 A_83. I agree with keeping it out because AWW no
25 longer exists as an independent company.
26

27 However, I don't agree with his reasoning for
28 keeping it out. If a "pending acquisition" is
29 reason to exclude a water company from the
30 analysis then all of Mr. Moul's water companies
31 would have to be excluded.
32

33 For example, Mr. Moul testifies from page 19
34 line 29 to page 20 line 2: "The pending
35 acquisition of [AWW]... includes a 36.5% premium...
36 These premiums create a ripple effect ... on the
37 stock prices of all water companies ... a rising
38 tide lifts all boats." But Mr. Moul has not

1 examined "all boats." He has examined only the 6
2 "boats" covered by Value Line and is no position
3 to describe the behavior of the 6 water
4 companies not in his analysis.
5

6 However, if AWW were in my analysis, the
7 behavior of its stock price would create a very
8 low beta very similar to the betas of most of
9 the water companies in that continue to have
10 publicly trade stock.
11

12 For example, by the end of 2001 AWW's stock
13 price was almost fixed, behaving like cash
14 sitting in a passbook savings account, where the
15 value is immune and unaffected by movements in
16 the stock market. My Schedule 10 lists the month
17 end stock price for AWW the index for value for
18 S&P 500 from December 31, 2001 to January 9,
19 2003 as well the month-to-month percentage
20 changes for the stock and the index.
21

22 Those percentage changes are plotted in Chart 1,
23 which shows that AWW's price changed little, not
24 tracking the price changes in the overall
25 market.
26

27 The month-to-month changes show that AWW's price
28 was unaffected by the market. In the entire 12
29 months period the overall market declined about
30 17% and the AWW's stock went up about 10%. I
31 calculated AWW's beta as zero for that time
32 period. This is exactly what is expected because
33 by 2002 AWW's stock was no longer related to the
34 overall market. The stock was considered
35 absolutely, perfectly risk free since RWE had
36 guaranteed a purchase price. However, if Value
37 Line's procedure were applied to the data in my

1 Schedule 10, the beta would be .35, an
2 overestimation, not an accurate rendering of the
3 behavior of AWW's stock.
4

5 Q_84. Why did you calculate the beta for AWW?
6

7 A_84. I calculated it because no financial services
8 carry that data for AWW because AWW disappeared
9 from all stock markets as of January 9, 2003.
10 Since TnAm filed its case on February 7, 2003,
11 an entire month passed before CAPD was aware
12 that information would not be available.
13

14 Q_85. Do you consider your calculated beta to be
15 accurate?
16

17 A_85. Yes, I consider it accurate, and the proof is in
18 Schedule 8 where my calculated beta is shown to
19 be consistent with the betas published by
20 Standard & Poors, Yahoo and Lycos. Thomson's
21 betas are sometimes higher than mine but still
22 much lower than Value Line's.
23

24 Q_86. What is your opinion with regard to Value Line's
25 betas?
26

27
28 A_86. My opinion is that they be disregarded because
29 they are inaccurate, leading to a higher risk
30 assessment than otherwise, making dissimilar
31 industries appear similar.
32

33 Q_87. Where are Value Line's betas used in TnAm's
34 cost-of-capital analysis?
35

36 A_87. Value Lines' betas appear in Mr. Moul's analysis
37 of the Captial Asset Pricing Model, CAPM, from
38 pages 34 to 38 of his testimony. They are used

1 to arrive at equity returns of 12.76% for the
2 "water group" and 13.71%, for the "gas" group,
3 where the betas are .71 and .80.
4

5 **Q_88. What is your opinion regarding the company's**
6 **CAPM analysis?**
7

8 **A_88.** My opinion is that the CAPM be disregarded
9 because it relies on Value Line's betas, which
10 are vast overestimates and not standard
11 practice.
12

13 **Q_89. Do you know the basis for Value Line's procedure**
14 **to calculate betas?**
15

16
17 **A_89.** Yes. *Value Line* bases its procedure on an
18 article titled "On The Assessment Of Risk" which
19 was authored by Marshall Blume of the University
20 of Pennsylvania. Professor Blume's article was
21 published in the March 1971 issue of the *Journal*
22 *of Finance*. Blume believed that all betas tend
23 towards one, so he performed a calculation to
24 raise the value of betas that are low and lower
25 the value of betas that are high. This procedure
26 was adopted by Value Line. The portfolios in
27 Blume's article were formed between the years
28 1926 and 1968. His most recent portfolio is now
29 thirty years old. His inquiry has not been
30 updated, and there is no evidence that his
31 portfolio included water companies.
32

33 **Q_90. Has Blume's method been criticized?**
34

35 **A_90.** Yes. For example, James C. VanHorne of Stanford
36 University, a long-time author of a standard
37 financial textbook *Financial Management and*
38 *Policy*, said in his book at page 79 of the 7th

1 edition: "Adjusting historical betas is
2 difficult business because the process is seldom
3 clear and consistent."
4

5 Maybe another reference
6

7 Q_91. Is the company aware that you would raise the
8 Value Line betas as an issue in this docket?
9

10 A_91. Yes. In response to their first discovery
11 request CAPD provided them with a copy of the
12 cover page of Blume's 1971 article and a copy of
13 Value Line's fax sent to me in 1995, where the
14 fax provided a reference to Blume's article.
15

16 Q_92. What is your opinion regarding TnAm's use of gas
17 companies to estimate TnAm's cost-of-capital?
18

19 A_92. My opinion is that the gas companies be
20 disregarded because:
21

22 they are not in the water supply business, the
23 sole enterprise activity of TnAm, a fact
24 supported by the previously described statements
25 of AWW's president and its CEO in filings with
26 the SEC;
27

28 the actual betas of the water and gas industries
29 are different, a fact supported by my Schedule
30 8;
31

32 Mr. Moul's criteria to select the gas companies
33 is arbitrary, contradictory and therefore not
34 able to create comparability, where in fact
35 there is none.
36
37

**VI. Determination Of the cost-of-equity:
Comparison of CAPD's Methods with the
Company's Methods**

Q_93. What analyses did you perform to identify an equity rate of return that is just and reasonable?

A_93. I performed two analyses, the risk premium method and the discounted cash flow method.

Q_94. What methods does the Company use to identify its requested equity rate of return?

A_94. The Company uses four methods: comparable earnings, capital asset pricing, risk premium, and discounted cash flow.

VI. A. COMPANY METHODS

Q_95. What is your opinion of each method as means to arrive at a cost-of-equity?

A_95. My opinion is that no method is inherently superior to another. What matters is how the

1 analyst selects the numbers to implement the
2 method and whether the selection process is
3 grounded in reasonability and standard practice
4 and, if standard practice is abandoned, the
5 reason for so doing.

6
7 For example, I have already expressed my opinion
8 that the Company's comparable earnings method be
9 disregarded because it is based on the arbitrary
10 selection of the best performing companies
11 rather than the worst or mediocre. I have also
12 expressed my opinion that the Company's CAPM
13 method be disregarded because it relies on Value
14 Line betas which are not standard practice, and
15 therefore result in overestimates of actual
16 betas and overestimates of the cost-of-capital.

17
18 **Q_96. What is your opinion of the Company's risk**
19 **premium method?**

20
21 **A_96.** My opinion is that it produces a biased return,
22 one higher than would be arrived at by correct
23 use of statistics.

24
25 For example, Mr. Moul brings statistical
26 analysis into his testimony at page 32 lines 31
27 to 34 where he testifies: "To develop an
28 appropriate risk premium, I analyzed the results
29 for the S&P public utilities by averaging (i)
30 the mid point of the range shown by the
31 geometric mean and median and (ii) the
32 arithmetic mean...this is a comprehensive way of
33 measuring the central tendency of historical
34 returns."

35
36 **Q_97. What does the term "central tendency" mean?**
37

1 A_97. It is a term used in the Statistics profession.
2 A lay person would use the term "average" or
3 "midpoint."
4

5 Q_98. Isn't it true that Mr. Moul is averaging two
6 different kinds of averages?
7

8 A_98. Yes, Mr. Moul is averaging two different kinds
9 of averages.
10

11 Q_99. Isn't it true that this is a reasonable
12 statistical procedure?
13

14 A_99. No. It is not reasonable once the terms
15 "arithmetic" and "geometric" are made clear.
16

17 Here is an example of the "arithmetic" mean. If
18 I bought a stock two years ago for \$1000 and the
19 market price declined to \$500, I would have a
20 loss of 50% in that year. If by a miracle the
21 stock climbed back to \$1000 the next year, I
22 would have a 100% gain even though I have the
23 same amount of money I started with. The average
24 gain over two years is the "arithmetic" mean,
25 which is 25%, i.e., $(-50\% + 100\%)/2$. Any
26 historical record using the arithmetic means of
27 stock gains and losses is biased in the sense
28 that it always overestimates the true gain.
29

30 Here is an example of the "geometric" mean. If I
31 started with \$1000 two years and I have \$1000
32 today, my gain is zero and the "geometric mean"
33 is zero.
34

35 If the "arithmetic" mean is averaged with the
36 "geometric" mean the gain is 12.5%, which is
37 still a misleading figure.
38

1 Thus averaging the "arithmetic" and "geometric"
2 means, as Mr. Moul does, is not a reasonable
3 procedure. The "geometric" mean is the actual
4 return.

5
6 Q_100. How does Mr. Moul develop his averages of the
7 "geometric" and "arithmetic" means?
8

9 A_100. Mr. Moul develops his means by taking the data
10 from four different time periods shown at page
11 33 lines 2 to 3 of his testimony: 1928-2001,
12 1952-2001, 1974-2001, and 1979-2001.
13

14 Q_101. Is this procedure reasonable?
15

16 A_101. No. It is unreasonable because the periods are
17 arbitrarily selected and subject to
18 manipulation.
19

20 For example, my Schedule 11 lists returns to
21 large company stocks from the period 1925
22 through 2002 taken from Ibbotson Associates 2002
23 Yearbook - "Stocks Bonds, Bills and Inflation,"
24 Tables A-1 and B-1. Column 1 lists the year,
25 column 2 lists the actual value of the return
26 and column 3 lists the percentage gain or loss
27 from the prior year. The actual or "geometric"
28 return over the entire period is 10.20%, shown
29 at the bottom of column 2. The 'arithmetic'
30 return is 12.20%. In this case the 'arithmetic'
31 return overstates the real return by 2%.
32

33 When I repeat the analysis but start with 1979,
34 as shown in columns 5 and 6, the overstatement
35 increases to 2.8%, a hefty 40% increase. Thus
36 shortening the time period is a way to increase
37 the bias of an "arithmetic" mean.
38

1 Depending on the particular pattern of data that
2 underlies the derivation of the "geometric" and
3 "arithmetic" mean, an overstatement can be
4 increased or decreased at will but masked as a
5 "reasonable" procedure.
6

7 Q_102. What is your opinion regarding the Company's
8 Risk Premium analysis?
9

10 A_102. My opinion is to disregard the analysis because
11 it relies on the 'arithmetic' mean and on the
12 arbitrary selection of time periods by Mr. Moul.
13

14 Q_103. What is your opinion of the Company's Capital
15 Asset Pricing Model, or CAPM?
16

17 A_103. My opinion is to disregard it because the model
18 relies on Value Line betas, as I have already
19 described. However, the Company's implementation
20 has more errors that I want to discuss.
21

22 Q_104. What is the CAPM model?
23

24 A_104. The model defines the cost-of-equity as the
25 market's risk-free rate of return plus an
26 estimated risk premium which is multiplied by a
27 beta. The risk premium is the difference between
28 the overall market return and the risk free
29 return. The model is often expressed by the
30 following general formula:
31

$$K_e = R_f + (R_m - R_f) * B_e$$

32
33
34 where
35

36 K_e is the cost-of-equity
37

38 R_m is the overall market rate of return

1
2 R_f is the risk free rate of return

3
4 B_e is the beta for common stock

5
6 There is an exact correspondence between this
7 formula and the formulas shown in Mr. Moul's
8 testimony at page 37 lines 23 -24.
9

10 However, the betas in Mr. Moul's formulas are
11 even larger then the Value Line betas Mr. Moul
12 discusses in his testimony at page 16 lines 9 to
13 19.
14

15 Q_105. Why are the betas at page 37 of Mr. Moul's
16 testimony larger than the Value Line betas he
17 discusses at page 16 lines 9 to 19 of his
18 testimony?
19

20 A_105. Mr. Moul has increased the Value Line betas
21 according to his formula at page 36 line 6 of
22 his testimony. He has 'leveraged' them to
23 account for the "book value of a capital
24 structure," a process often described as
25 leveraging an equity beta into an asset beta.
26

27 Q_106. Do you agree with his procedure?
28

29 A_106. No. I disagree for four reasons.
30

31 First, the Value Line betas are overestimates
32 and do not conform to standard practice. If Mr.
33 Moul had used standard betas the 'leveraged'
34 betas would be much smaller and in many cases
35 zero, because many of the standard betas were
36 close to zero. Consider the case of AWW in 2002.
37 Its beta was near zero and could not be
38 converted to reflect capital structure. This

1 shows that the process of converting standard
2 betas to "asset betas" has no particular
3 economic meaning because a company's book value
4 can stay constant while betas fluctuate.
5

6 Second, there is no need to 'leverage' the beta.
7 The practical value of 'leveraging' a standard
8 beta into an asset beta was studied thoroughly
9 by the Australian government. The relevant
10 report is: "Final Report, Empirical Evidence on
11 Proxy Beta Values for Regulated Gas Transmission
12 Activities: July 2002 Report for the Australian
13 Competition and Consumer Commission," prepared
14 by the Allen Consulting Group of Melbourne,
15 Australia.
16

17 The following conclusion appears at page 30 of
18 the report: "Moreover, as the CAPM is only being
19 used to estimate the cost-of-capital for the
20 equity financed portion of regulated Australian
21 gas transmission activities, it is the equity
22 beta - not the asset beta - that is the relevant
23 input into the cost-of-capital estimation...", and
24 "Accordingly this report uses the raw betas
25 estimates produced by each of the beta
26 estimation services." The sources are
27

28 http://www.accc.gov.au/gas/br_reg_iss/empiricalA
29 [.pdf,](http://www.accc.gov.au/gas/br_reg_iss/empiricalA)
30

31 and

32
33 http://www.accc.gov.au/gas/br_reg_iss/empiricalB
34 [.pdf.](http://www.accc.gov.au/gas/br_reg_iss/empiricalB)
35

36 Schedule 12 provides a copy of the source's
37 cover sheet and relevant pages, where the
38 quotation is found.

1
2
3 Third, 'leveraged' betas are not published by
4 any reporting service.

5
6 Fourth, normal betas change over time according
7 to the market's perceptions of the company and
8 the overall economy. Betas can go up and down
9 even if a company's capital structure does not.

10
11
12 Q_107. What is your opinion of the R_m , the overall
13 market rate used by Mr. Moul.?

14
15 A_107. My opinion is that it is hyperbole. Given the
16 figure of 5.25% as the risk free rate and 10.58%
17 as the risk premium, the overall market rate of
18 return is 15.83%, a return that is large enough
19 to be at least unusual and extreme instead of
20 typical and mainstream.

21
22 Q_108. What is your opinion regarding the Company's
23 CAPM analysis?

24
25 A_108. My opinion is to disregard the analysis because
26 not only does it rely on the Value Line betas,
27 it also relies on 'leveraging' those betas, an
28 unreasonable procedure, and relies on an overall
29 market return of 15.83% that is hyperbole and
30 unsupported.

31
32
33 Q_109. What is your opinion regarding the Company's DCF
34 analysis?

35
36 A_109. My opinion is that its application to gas
37 companies be disregarded for the reasons I have
38 already discussed. With regard to its

1 applications to the six water companies, Mr.
2 Moul's methods are not reasonable, but they
3 provide an opportunity to compare his methods
4 with mine.

5
6 For example, Mr. Moul arrives at a figure of
7 9.85% shown at page 30, line 20 of his
8 testimony. The figure of 9.85% is subdivided
9 into three parts: a "leverage" ratio of .57%, a
10 "growth rate" of 5.75% and a "yield" of 3.53%.
11 These figures are variations on the traditional
12 DCF method, and I don't agree with them.

13
14 However, Mr. Moul justifies his departure from
15 the standard application of DCF (in which equity
16 cost is the sum of a dividend yield and dividend
17 growth) by referring to the "merger" environment
18 for water companies. At page 26 lines 13-17 of
19 his testimony he states: "expectations
20 concerning merger[s] impact stock prices...without
21 necessarily showing up in higher long-term
22 growth rate forecasts. In that case the
23 traditional DCF calculation would understate the
24 required cost-of-equity."

25
26 At page 28 lines 8-11 Mr. Moul offers another
27 reason for his departure from the standard DCF
28 model: "because the ratesetting process utilizes
29 the book value capitalization, an adjustment
30 should be made to the market cost-of-equity
31 upward... [emphasis added by CAPD]"

32
33 Q_110. What is Mr. Moul's market cost-of-equity using
34 his particular version of the DCF model before
35 he makes the upward adjustment?

36
37 A_110. Mr. Moul's market cost-of-equity is 9.28 %.

1 Q_111. Do agree with his upward adjustment of .57%

2
3 A_111. No. I disagree. Since he acknowledges that 9.28%
4 is the market cost, there is no need to increase
5 it. More importantly, Mr. Moul's DCF analysis is
6 the only point in his whole analysis that
7 overlaps with mine, in the sense that my DCF
8 analysis leads to a 9.21% equity return.
9

10 **VI. B. CAPD METHODS**

11
12
13
14
15
16 Q_112. What methods did you use to determine the cost-
17 of-equity?
18

19 A_112. I used the traditional DCF method, where equity
20 cost is the sum of a dividend yield and dividend
21 growth.
22

23 Q_113. What were your results?
24

25 A_113. I arrived at 9.21% as the DCF determined market
26 cost equity based on the 12 water companies that
27 continue to be publicly traded in the United
28 States. My DCF analysis is shown in Schedule 13.
29

30 Q_114. What are the advantages of your method with
31 regard to Mr. Moul's?
32

33 A_114. The method is accurate, clear and simple
34 requiring no adjustments whatsoever, other than
35 verifying the historical record of dividends for
36 the 12 water companies. Schedule 14 shows the
37 corrections I made to historical dividends of
38 Pennichuck and Condolitated Water.

1
2 **Q_115. Why should the traditional DCF model be used?**

3
4 **A_115.** The DCF model is a standard way that investors
5 evaluate their potential returns. The model
6 defines the cost of common equity as the cash
7 flowing to the investor, where the cash flow is
8 based on the revenue stream the dividend yield
9 plus the dividend's expected growth rate. The
10 DCF model does exactly what every investor does.
11 It pays close attention to the company's
12 dividend per share of common stock and to the
13 company's ability to raise or lower the dividend
14 and the dividend yield.
15

16
17 **Q_116. Does the DCF Model account for capital gains**
18 **that may occur when an investor sells stock?**
19

20 **A_116.** No. The DCF model avoids entanglement with
21 either capital gain or capital loss because the
22 model is tied directly to dividend yield and
23 dividend growth. In addition, losses and gains
24 are a matter of the investor timing the stock's
25 purchase and sale. The DCF model neither
26 protects investors from risk nor penalizes them
27 for what happens in the stock market.
28

29 **Q_117. Are capital gains part of a DCF analysis?**
30

31 **A_117.** No. Dividends and capital gains are mutually
32 exclusive in the sense that once a stock is
33 sold, the investor gives up the stream of future
34 dividends. Also, the rational investor sells
35 stock in anticipation of a permanent decline of
36 the stock's price, which means the unfortunate
37 buyer, who is now the owner, bears the capital
38 loss. Any capital gain by the first owner is

1 nullified by the capital loss of the second
2 owner.

3
4 Q_118. Do you agree that earnings growth is part of a
5 DCF model?

6
7 A_118. No. A correct DCF analysis is based on the
8 investor's real-world cash flow from dividends
9 and their growth. Earnings is not a predictor of
10 dividend flows because dividend policy is set by
11 a company's board. Dividends can continue in
12 times when earnings are poor, and dividends can
13 be restricted if the company needs to retain
14 earnings. It is a matter of company policy.

15
16 Q_119. What other method did you use to develop a cost-
17 of-equity?

18
19 A_119. I used a combination of the CAPM model and the
20 risk premium analysis.

21
22
23 Q_120. What is the difference between your approach and
24 Mr. Moul's

25
26 A_120. Whereas Mr. Moul's model is

27
28
$$K_e = R_f + (R_m - R_f) * B_e (1)$$

29
30 mine is

31
32
$$K_e = K_d + (R_m - R_f) * B_e (2)$$

33
34 The formula's terms have the same meanings as
35 already discussed:

36
37 K_e is the cost-of-equity

38
39 R_m is the market rate of return

R_f is the risk free rate of return

B_e is the beta for common stock

The only difference is that K_d is the cost-of-debt and substitutes for R_f .

I arrived at my formula by using the following equation:

$$K_d = R_f + (R_m - R_f) * B_d \quad (3)$$

Where B_d is the beta for debt capital

There is a market for debt capital just like there is a market for equity capital. I derived equation (2) by subtracting equation (3) from equation (1) and the result is equation (2):

$$K_e = K_d + (R_m - R_f) * (B_e - B_d) \quad (2).$$

I've assumed that that B_d is zero, so that equation (2) reduces to equation (1) but K_d substitutes for R_f .

The betas for my 12 water companies are listed in Schedule 15. The water companies' betas are low, averaging only .1 for all 12 companies. Given these figures for B_e and 6% as the prevailing cost of long-term-debt, K_d , this analysis would not yield more than a 7.5% return, even if R_m were above 15%.

Q_121. Where would a 9.2% and 7.5% return be placed in your Schedule 2, page 1?

A_121. A return of 9.2% would place the return in the top 35% of company returns. A return of 7.5%

1 would place the return in the top 42% of company
2 returns.
3

4 Q_122. In your opinion are those reasonable returns?
5

6 A_122. Yes, in my opinion they are reasonable returns,
7 performing well ahead of long-term-debt cost and
8 over half of the companies in the past year.
9

10 Q_123. In your opinion which return is appropriate for
11 the double leverage situation?
12

13 A_123. In my opinion my DCF result, 9.21%, is
14 appropriate for keeping RWE's equity return
15 higher than its debt cost for the foreseeable
16 future.
17

18 Q_124. In your opinion what is RWE's capital structure?
19

20 A_124. In my opinion RWE has a capital structure where
21 11% is equity and the 89% remainder is debt.
22
23

24 Q_125. In your opinion what is RWE's weighted cost-of-
25 capital and debt?
26

27 A_125. In my opinion RWE's weighted cost-of-capital
28 equals a debt cost of 6% multiplied by a debt
29 ratio of 89%, plus an equity cost of 9.21%
30 multiplied by an equity ratio of 11%.
31

32 Q_126. In your opinion are RWE's debt and equity ratios
33 typical of the comparable companies you chose?
34

35 A_126. No. RWE's ratios are not typical of the
36 comparable companies.
37

38 Q_127. What are the typical ratios of the comparable
39 companies?

1
2 A_127. The typical ratios are 56% equity and 44% debt
3 and shown in Schedule 13.
4

5 Q_128. What is your opinion regarding the use of RWE's
6 debt and equity ratios in the final cost-of-
7 capital?
8

9 A_128. In my opinion the water companies' ratios of 56%
10 equity and 44% debt should be used. This is
11 consistent with the equity cost being derived
12 from water supply companies.
13

14 Q_129. What is the weighted cost-of-capital when the
15 water companies' ratios are used?
16

17 A_129. The weighted cost-of-capital is 7.8%.
18

19 Q_130. What is your opinion regarding the application
20 of 7.8% as the weighted cost-of-capital?
21

22 A_130. In my opinion 7.8% is the weighted cost-of-
23 capital to apply to RWE's wholly-owned
24 subsidiary, TnAm, giving it an overall return of
25 7.46% shown in Schedule 16.
26
27

28 **VII. Cost of Service**
29
30

31 Q_131. In your opinion, how should the distribution of
32 revenues resulting from a change in the
33 Company's rates be allocated among the Company's
34 revenue classes?
35

36 A_131. In my opinion any change should be distributed
37 equally among the revenue classes because the

1 Company has indicated in its responses to CAPD's
2 discovery request 62 through 68 in the first set
3 of requests, and in the Company's response to
4 item 12 of the second set of requests, that the
5 Company has no evidence of how each revenue
6 class contributes to the need for capacity.
7

8 For example, regarding item 12 the Company
9 responded: "The analysis used to develop the
10 judgment for the class demand factors was not an
11 arithmetic process or analysis. Rather, results
12 of demand studies prepared for Pennsylvania-
13 American Water Company, West-Virginia American
14 Water Company and Philadelphia Suburban Water
15 Company were considered along with observations
16 of the Companies' service areas to determine the
17 estimated class demand factors." However, in
18 response to request 64 the Company said: "The
19 contribution of each customer class to the peak
20 day volume is not known." This lack of
21 information is important since the Company has
22 already stated that the public-fire-service
23 issue is related to capacity. According to the
24 Directors' conference transcript of January 11,
25 2000: "...it's not really the service of the
26 hydrant, but it's the standby costs that are
27 necessary to have fire service in the city [Tr.
28 P. 22]." Standby costs are capacity costs. There
29 is no reason to allocate capacity costs to
30 revenue classes when their contribution to
31 capacity requirements is unknown.
32

33 Q_132. Does this conclude your testimony?
34
35

36 A_132. Yes. It concludes my testimony at this time.
37

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE: PETITION OF TENNESSEE-AMERICAN)
WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGE)
IN RATES AND CHARGES)

DOCKET NO. 03-00118

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TENNESSEE)

COUNTY OF DAVIDSON)

Before me, the undersigned authority, duly commissioned and qualified in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally came and appeared, Steve N. Brown, being by me first duly sworn deposed and said that:

He is appearing as a witness on behalf of the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Tennessee Attorney General's Office and if present before the Authority and duly sworn, his testimony is set forth in the annexed transcript consisting of ____ pages.


STEVE N. BROWN

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 29th day of May, 2003.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: Oct. 25, 2003

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 1

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2002

Docket No. 03-00118
Exhibit CAPD-SB /
Direct Testimony
Schedule 1
Page 1 of 4

Assets

€ million

	Note	12/31/02	12/31/01
Non-current assets	(11)		
Intangible assets		18,518	8,502
Property, plant and equipment		33,779	32,310
Financial assets ¹		9,280	8,370
		61,577	49,182
Current assets			
Inventories	(12)	3,505	3,643
Accounts receivable and other assets	(13)	16,371	15,244
Marketable securities	(14)	8,459	10,611
Cash and cash equivalents	(15)	2,143	3,842
		30,478	33,340
Deferred taxes	(16)	7,593	8,399
Prepaid expenses		625	528
		100,273	91,449

Equity and Liabilities

€ million

	Note	12/31/02	12/31/01
Equity/Minority interest	(17)		
Group interest		6,429	7,730
Minority interest		2,495	3,399
		8,924	11,129
Provisions	(18)	40,187	40,383
Liabilities²	(19)	41,140	30,535
Deferred taxes	(16)	6,566	6,206
Deferred income	(20)	3,456	3,196
		100,273	91,449

¹ Include €4,030 million in financial assets accounted for using the equity method (previous year: €4,614 million).
² Include €23,935 million in long-term interest-bearing liabilities (previous year: €11,408 million).

**Determination of RWE Equity and Debt Ratios:
From Consolidated Balance Sheet**

Docket No. 03-00118
Exhibit CAPD-SB 1
Direct Testimony
Schedule 1
Page 2 of 4

CAPITALIZATION (EUROS)

RATIOS

Equity:			
Group Interest	6,429		
Minority Interest	2,495		
Total Equity	8,924	10%	
NonEquity:			
Provisions:	40,187		
Liabilities:	41,140		
Total NonEquity	81,327	90%	
Total Capitalization	90,251		

CAPITALIZATION (USD)

RATIOS

Equity:			
Group Interest	7,200		
Minority Interest	2,794		
Total Equity	9,995	10%	
NonEquity:			
Provisions:	45,009		
Liabilities:	46,077		
Total NonEquity	91,086	90%	
Total Capitalization	101,081		

Determination of RWE Long Term Debt Cost

Docket No. 03-00118
Exhibit CAPD-SB 1
Direct Testimony _____
Schedule 1 _____
Page 3 of 4 _____

RWE: All Notes and Debt

Amount	Currency	Interest Rate	Maturity Year	In USD	Weighted Cost	Conversion Range March 13- May 23		
						Max	Min	Average
800 GBP		6.25	2030	\$1,280	0.441	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
650 GBP		6.50	2021	\$1,040	0.373	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
350 GBP		6.50	2021	\$560	0.201	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
225 GBP		6.50	2021	\$360	0.129	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
75 GBP		6.50	2021	\$120	0.043	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
350 NOK		3.68	2017	\$50	0.010	\$0.1490	\$0.1350	\$0.1420
100 EUR		3.00	2017	\$112	0.019	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
750 GBP		6.38	2013	\$1,200	0.422	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
1750 EUR		6.13	2012	\$1,960	0.662	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
1500 EUR		6.13	2012	\$1,680	0.567	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
250 EUR		6.13	2012	\$280	0.095	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
100 EUR		5.63	2009	\$112	0.035	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
385 HKD		1.76	2009	\$49	0.005	\$0.1282	\$0.1282	\$0.1282
2000 EUR		5.38	2008	\$2,240	0.664	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
2500 EUR		5.50	2007	\$2,800	0.849	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
150 EUR		4.75	2007	\$168	0.044	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
2000 CZK		3.39	2007	\$707	0.132	\$0.3720	\$0.3350	\$0.3535
5000 JPY		2.90	2007	\$42	0.007	\$0.0086	\$0.0083	\$0.0085
350 GBP		5.75	2006	\$560	0.177	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
250 GBP		5.75	2006	\$400	0.127	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
100 GBP		5.75	2006	\$160	0.051	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
100 GBP		5.50	2005	\$160	0.048	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
350 EUR		2.84	2005	\$392	0.061	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
150 EUR		3.08	2004	\$168	0.029	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
125 EUR		2.95	2004	\$140	0.023	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
50 EUR		2.92	2004	\$56	0.009	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
5000 JPY		1.52	2004	\$42	0.004	\$0.0086	\$0.0083	\$0.0085
75 US		3.72	2003	\$75	0.015	\$1.0000	\$1.0000	\$1.0000
550 EUR		3.08	2002	\$616	0.105	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
250 EUR		3.08	2002	\$280	0.048	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
200 EUR		3.08	2002	\$224	0.038	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
100 EUR		3.08	2002	\$112	0.019	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
26585	Total Value of Notes			\$18,146	5.447			
14555	UnAccounted Liabilities							

RWE: Notes Maturing From 2005 to 2030

Amount	Currency	Interest Rate	Maturity Year	In USD	Weighted Cost	Conversion Range March 13- May 23		
						Max	Min	Average
800 GBP		6.25	2030	\$1,280	0.487	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
650 GBP		6.50	2021	\$1,040	0.411	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
350 GBP		6.50	2021	\$560	0.222	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
225 GBP		6.50	2021	\$360	0.142	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
75 GBP		6.50	2021	\$120	0.047	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
350 NOK		3.68	2017	\$50	0.011	\$0.1490	\$0.1350	\$0.1420
100 EUR		3.00	2017	\$112	0.020	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
750 GBP		6.38	2013	\$1,200	0.466	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
1750 EUR		6.13	2012	\$1,960	0.731	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
1500 EUR		6.13	2012	\$1,680	0.626	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
250 EUR		6.13	2012	\$280	0.104	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
100 EUR		5.63	2009	\$112	0.038	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
385 HKD		1.76	2009	\$49	0.005	\$0.1282	\$0.1282	\$0.1282
2000 EUR		5.38	2008	\$2,240	0.733	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
2500 EUR		5.50	2007	\$2,800	0.937	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
150 EUR		4.75	2007	\$168	0.049	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
2000 CZK		3.39	2007	\$707	0.146	\$0.3720	\$0.3350	\$0.3535
5000 JPY		2.90	2007	\$42	0.007	\$0.0086	\$0.0083	\$0.0085
350 GBP		5.75	2006	\$560	0.196	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
250 GBP		5.75	2006	\$400	0.140	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
100 GBP		5.75	2006	\$160	0.056	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
100 GBP		5.50	2005	\$160	0.054	\$1.6400	\$1.5600	\$1.6000
350 EUR		2.84	2005	\$392	0.068	\$1.1800	\$1.0600	\$1.1200
				\$16,432	5.697			

Balance Sheet

as of December 31, 2002

Assets
€ million

Note 12/31/02 12/31/01

Non current assets	(1)		
Financial assets		32,498	22,652
Current assets			
Accounts receivable and other assets	(2)		
_Accounts receivable from affiliated companies		4,884	4,654
_Accounts receivable from investments		43	209
_Other assets		99	237
Securities	(3)	1,164	1,779
Cash and cash equivalents	(4)	176	1,005
Prepaid expenses	(5)	62	23
		38,926	30,559

Equity and Liabilities
€ million

Note 12/31/02 12/31/01

Equity	(6)		
_Subscribed capital			
_Common shares		1,340	1,359
_Preferred shares		100	100
(Contingent capital: € 51 million)		1,440	1,459
Capital reserve		1,288	1,269
Retained earnings		829	614
Distributable profit		619	562
		4,176	3,904
Special reserves with an equity portion	(7)	—	□
Provisions	(8)		
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations		5,550	5,375
Tax provisions		1,939	1,501
Other provisions		1,241	754
		8,730	7,630
Liabilities	(9)		
Bonds		2,689	246
Bank debt		263	1,482
Trade accounts payable		11	5
Accounts payable to affiliated companies		21,104	15,146
Accounts payable to investments		7	850
Other liabilities		1,892	1,282
		25,966	19,011
Deferred income	(10)	54	14
		38,926	30,559

□ Negligible amount.

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 2

**Range of Return On Equity:
5600 Companies - Trailing 12 Months
www. Morningstar.com**

Docket No. 03-00118
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Direct Testimony _____
Schedule 2 _____
Page 1 of 2 _____

Range of ROE Within Last 12 Months Percent	Number of Stocks In Range	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Less than Zero*	1947	35%	35%
Zero to 1	100	2%	36%
1 TO 2	135	2%	39%
2 TO 3	128	2%	41%
3 TO 4	147	3%	44%
4 TO 5	163	3%	47%
5 TO 6	153	3%	49%
6 TO 7	189	3%	53%
7 TO 8	208	4%	56%
8 TO 9	190	3%	60%
9 TO 10	223	4%	64%
10 TO 11	213	4%	68%
11 TO 12	194	3%	71%
12 TO 13	200	4%	75%
13 TO 14	194	3%	78%
14 And Above**	1238	22%	100%
Total:	5622		
*Lowest: -97%			
**Highest: 754%			
Source: MorningStar - www.morningstar.com			

Companies With ROE Less Than 1%

Docket No. 03-00118

Exhibit CAPD-SB 2

Direct Testimony

Schedule 2 Page 2 of 2

Stock Name	Sector	Industry	Market Cap (\$ mil)
1-800 Contacts	Consumer Svc	Specialty retail	266
1-800-Attorney	Business Svc	Business / Online Services	0
21st Century Insurance Group	Financial Svc	Insurance (Property)	1189
3Com	Hardware	Data Networking	1875
3TEC Energy	Energy	Oil & Gas	286
724 Solutions	Business Svc	Business / Online Services	13
724 Solutions	Business Svc	Business / Online Services	10
@Road	Business Svc	Business / Online Services	379
A.D.A.M.	Software	Entertainment / Education Media	8
AAR	Ind Mtrls	Aerospace & Defense	127
Abaxis	Healthcare	Diagnostics	90
Aber Diamond	Ind Mtrls	Mining (Nonferrous & Nonmetals)	873
Abgenix	Healthcare	Biotechnology	963
Able Energy	Energy	Oil / Gas Products	8
Ablest	Business Svc	Employment	13
Abrams Industries	Business Svc	Engineering & Construction	11
Accelr8 Technology	Software	Systems & Security	16
ACE*Comm	Hardware	Wireline Equipment	9
Aclara Biosciences	Healthcare	Medical Equipment	90
Acorn Holding	Financial Svc	Finance	1
ACT Teleconferencing	Telecom	Telecommunication Services	16
Wynn Resorts	Consumer Svc	Gambling / Hotel Casinos	1416
X-Rite	Ind Mtrls	Manufacturing - Misc.	168
Xanser	Energy	Pipelines	73
Xata	Software	Business Applications	25
Xcel Energy	Utilities	Electric Utilities	5785
Xerox	Ind Mtrls	Office Equipment	7914
Xicor	Hardware	Semiconductors	135
XL Capital	Financial Svc	Reinsurance	11131
XM Satellite Radio Holdings	Media	Radio	941
Yellow	Business Svc	Land Transport	725
York International	Business Svc	Environmental Control	962
Zale	Goods	Jewelry / Accessories	1113
Zanett	Consumer Svc	Restaurants	55
Zapworld	Goods	Recreation	13
Zapworld	Goods	Recreation	16
Zarlink Semiconductor	Hardware	Wireline Equipment	602
Zi Corporation	Software	Development Tools	82
Zila	Healthcare	Drugs	80
Zoltek Companies	Ind Mtrls	Electric Equipment	46
Zomax	Goods	Photography & Imaging	103
Zonagen	Healthcare	Biotechnology	19
Zones	Consumer Svc	Specialty retail	14
Zoom Technologies	Hardware	Wireline Equipment	8
Zoran	Hardware	Semiconductors	477
Zygo	Hardware	Semiconductor Equipment	116

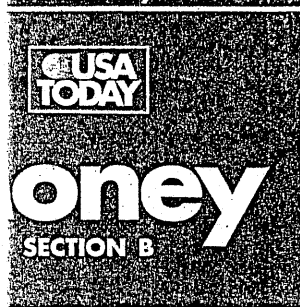
EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 3

**Federal Reserve Data:
Long Term Debt**

Docket No. 03-00118
Exhibit CAPD-SB 3
Direct Testimony _____
Schedule 3 _____
Page 1 of 1 _____

Interest Rate	Measured Every:	Debt Rating Or Term Length	Market Scope:	Federal Reserve's Description:	Federal Reserve's Source:
7.80	Twelve months ending December	BAA Rating	Private, all industries	Long-term or Capital Market	Moody's Investor Service
6.95	Month	BAA Rating	Private, all industries	Long-term or Capital Market	Moody's Investor Service
6.93	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	BAA Rating	Private, all industries	Long-term or Capital Market	Moody's Investor Service
6.93	Week ending Friday	BAA Rating	Private, all industries	Long-term or Capital Market	Moody's Investor Service
6.54	Twelve months ending December	Contract rate	Fixed-rate	30-year conventional mortgages	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation
6.49	Twelve months ending December	AAA Rating	Private, all industries	Long-term or Capital Market	Moody's Investor Service
5.89	Month	AAA Rating	Private, all industries	Long-term or Capital Market	Moody's Investor Service
5.85	Week ending Friday	Contract rate	Fixed-rate	30-year conventional mortgages	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation
5.82	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	AAA Rating	Private, all industries	Long-term or Capital Market	Moody's Investor Service
5.81	Week ending Friday	AAA Rating	Private, all industries	Long-term or Capital Market	Moody's Investor Service
5.80	Twelve months ending December	Thirty-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Federal Reserve System
5.75	Month	Contract rate	Fixed-rate	30-year conventional mortgages	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation
5.43	Twelve months ending December	Twenty-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
5.43	Twelve months ending December	Thirty-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
		Treasury long-term average (25 years and above)	Federal	Government securities	Long-term or capital market
5.41	Twelve months ending December	and above)	Federal	Government securities	Long-term or capital market
5.24	Week ending Friday	Thirty-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Federal Reserve System
5.23	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Thirty-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Federal Reserve System
5.18	Twelve months ending December	Ten-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Federal Reserve System
5.10	Month	Thirty-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Federal Reserve System
		Treasury long-term average (25 years and above)	Federal	Government securities	Long-term or capital market
5.05	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Treasury long-term average (25 years and above)	Federal	Government securities	Long-term or capital market
5.04	Week ending Friday	and above)	Federal	Government securities	Long-term or capital market
4.96	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Twenty-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
4.95	Week ending Friday	Twenty-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
		Treasury long-term average (25 years and above)	Federal	Government securities	Long-term or capital market
4.90	Month	and above)	Federal	Government securities	Long-term or capital market
4.82	Month	Twenty-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
4.79	Twelve months ending December	Seven-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
4.76	Month	20-bond index	General obligation	State and Local	Government securities
4.76	Week ending Thursday	20-bond index	General obligation	State and Local	Government securities
4.61	Twelve months ending December	Ten-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
4.39	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Ten-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
4.38	Week ending Friday	Ten-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
4.34	Twelve months ending December	Five-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
4.30	Twelve months ending December	Seven-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
4.22	Month	Ten-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
4.02	Twelve months ending December	Four-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
4.00	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Ten-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
3.97	Week ending Friday	Ten-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
3.86	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Seven-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
3.85	Week ending Friday	Seven-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
3.82	Twelve months ending December	Five-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
3.81	Month	Ten-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
3.70	Month	Seven-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
3.61	Twelve months ending December	Three-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
3.49	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Seven-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
3.48	Week ending Friday	Seven-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
3.34	Month	Seven-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
3.31	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Five-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
3.30	Week ending Friday	Five-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
3.17	Month	Five-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
3.10	Twelve months ending December	Three-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
3.02	Twelve months ending December	Two-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
2.95	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Five-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
2.93	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Four-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
2.92	Week ending Friday	Four-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
2.92	Week ending Friday	Five-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
2.80	Month	Four-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
2.78	Month	Five-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
2.64	Twelve months ending December	Two-year	Constant maturity	Federal	Government securities
2.47	Business (Five days, Monday-Friday)	Three-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
2.44	Week ending Friday	Three-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market
2.36	Month	Three-year maturity	Interest rate swaps	Derivative securities	Long-term or capital market

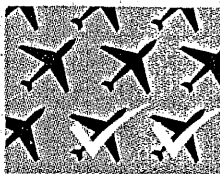
EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 4



Business travel

By Alison Maxwell

Auction action: Members of America's and Midwest's frequent-flyer programs and Hilton Hotels' frequent-guest program can cash in their points for merchandise on eBay. eBay partnered directly with Hilton to award Anything Points to members of its HHonors program. American AAdvantage miles and Midwest

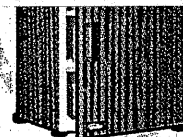


USA TODAY

Miles can be converted into Anything Points through the online customer loyalty program clearinghouse Points.com. The exchange rate varies. It takes 1 million Hilton HHonors points to equal \$100 worth of eBay Anything Points. That compares with 13,889 American AAdvantage or 20,202 Midwest Miles points

► More travel news at travel.usatoday.com

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May 22, 2003

co said it expects to emerge from reorganization in July. The U.S. Bankruptcy court set a deadline for creditors to file claims by June 6. Consecro is in December after years of aggressive restructuring. The 1998 takeover of mobile phone service by Consecro left it with too many assets. Consecro will become an investment company, selling Consecro Finance to and CFN Investment Holdings.

Oil imports set records

Recorded amounts of oil and gasoline imports remained low, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported Wednesday. The Energy Department reported a 0.2% rise in crude oil imports, last week vs. the previous week. Consecro used a different method, reported a 82.6 million. At 270 million and less, an occur. The tight inventories plus higher Middle East supplies pushed the price of intermediate crude for July delivery to 62 cents. Average price for a gallon of gasoline in the USA is \$1.497, AAA report-

Settlement with doctors

to announce today a class-action settlement with the doctors in the USA over a care giant unfairly cut reimbursement. The Wall Street Journal reported on its Tuesday. Aetna also agreed to settle with a group of about 600,000 physicians that their recommendations to patients under terms of the deal, Aetna promised: bill-payment systems in ways that will result in fewer cuts to reimbursement. The settlement is estimated to be \$470 million.

Intel rejects stock option plan

Intel Wednesday narrowly rejected a new employee stock options. Intel campaigned hard against the proposal. Intel rejected stock options as a standard. Intel leads to more accurate accounting. Intel is difficult to accurately calculate the results. If Intel expensed options, its first-quarter would have dropped by about a third.

Auto sales

Japan's third-largest automaker, rege in operating profit last business year. Strong U.S. sales and a weak yen. Profit at Nissan, owned 44.4% by Nissan, was \$6.3 billion, with net profit up 1.

Semiconductor cuts jobs

ational Semiconductor said Wednesday about 340 jobs and close a cell-o trim costs. The company says the loss in a \$25 million to \$30 million quarter. But it stood by its revenue of \$420 million to \$432 million for the

Auto sales are sluggish

consultant J.D. Power and Associates how sluggish new vehicle sales the apparently because consumers want more. Sales the second week of the year than they were the first week.

aff and wire reports

1998 & financial news as it happens

Greenspan hints at more rate cuts



Your dollar in Europe is now worth ...

And that's not necessarily bad

By Sue Kirchhoff, Noelle Knox and Paul Wiseman
USA TODAY

The mystery, economists say, is not why the dollar is falling, but why it took so long to decline — and how low it will go.

The combination of a weak U.S. economy and stock market, ballooning budget and trade deficits, low interest rates and a White House that is stepping away from nearly decade-old "strong dollar" rhetoric, has spooked investors, pushing the greenback down about 19% against a basket of currencies since its February 2002 peak; and about 25% against the euro alone.

The decline is helping U.S. businesses, from Eastman Kodak to farms, by making their products cheaper overseas. But the drop makes foreign goods more expensive in the huge U.S. market, hurting already weak economies in Europe and Japan where such companies as Volkswagen and Canon are reporting lower sales. The weaker dollar also means U.S. consumers may face higher prices for imported goods like French wine or cheese — assuming they end their Iraq-inspired boycott.

Likewise, European tourists should find a U.S. vacation an unexpected bargain.

"The dollar has been too high in the sense of making (U.S.) firms uncompetitive in the international marketplace," says Catherine Mann, a senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics. "The negative side ... is it makes the products that consumers buy more expensive."

While the dollar's fall is not unexpected, neither is it wholly predictable. The ultimate economic impact depends on how sustained the decline is and how governments and businesses respond.

Philippe Lemaître is president and CEO of

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

Deflation's 'minor' threat may call for action by Fed

By Barbara Hagenbaugh
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Chances the USA will slide into a dangerous deflationary spiral are "minor," but venting such a price decline may warrant additional interest rate cuts, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Wednesday.

The Fed chief gave an overall tepid outlook for the economy, warning that business caution may continue to act as a drag on the economy.

Greenspan stressed deflation — a consistent, broad decline in prices over a length of time — was not "an imminent, dangerous threat" to the USA. However, the threat, "though minor, is sufficiently large that it does require very close scrutiny and maybe, maybe, action on the part of the central bank," he told lawmakers on the Joint Economic Committee.

"We believe that because in the current environment the cost of taking out insurance against deflation is so low that we can aggressively attack some of the underlying forces," Greenspan said, suggesting the Fed sees little danger to cutting interest rates further.

The chairman's comments were his first since Fed officials raised the issue of deflation after their May 6 meeting, when they left the target for short-term interest rates at 1.25%, the lowest in years. Greenspan on Wednesday emphasized the Fed had plenty of tools in its arsenal despite the low rates.

With attention on deflation, Fed officials will keep rates where they are, or cut them further, until they see clear evidence the economy is picking up enough speed to spark price increases, economists say. In a report by the National Association for Business Economics released Wednesday, only five out of the 37 members surveyed expected the Fed to raise rates later this year. Most expected no changes in interest rates for the rest of 2003.

The Fed next meets June 24-25.

Greenspan said deflation could have a "very substantial" and "quite negative" impact on the U.S. economy. Deflation can lead to lower spending as consumers put off buying in anticipation of further price declines and to lower profits as firms are unable to raise — or even maintain — prices. That can lead to wage or job cuts. Less income makes it harder for companies and consumers to pay off debts.

Inflation in the USA is currently running at about 1% pace, the slowest in four decades.

Greenspan gave a lukewarm economic outlook for the economy as a whole, saying expectations for a pickup in activity this year were "not unreasonable" though the timing and extent of that improvement continue to be uncertain.

Low interest rates, a healthy housing market and decreased energy costs should help foster growth but caution on the part of CEOs could still slow it.



Alan Greenspan

► Uncertainty plagues businesses, 3F

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 5

**CAPD Comparable Companies Are In
The Water Supply Business**

DETERMINATION OF COMPARABLE COMPANIES

Docket No. 03-00118
Exhibit CAPD-SB 5
Direct Testimony
Schedule 5
Page 1 of 1

Securities and Exchange Commission Filings By Companies for Standard Industrial Code 4941 - Water Supply

Companies	Ever		Publicly Traded		If Traded		If Traded:		If Traded:		Company's Reason For Not Using
	Publicly Traded In American Markets?	Rate Case Filed?	Publicly Traded In American Markets After Rate Case Filed?	After Rate Case Filing: Company Name (Stock Exchange Symbol)	Used In CAPD's Analysis?	For Not Using:	Used In CAPD's Analysis?	For Not Using:	Used In CAPD's Analysis?	For Not Using:	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)				
AMERICAN STATES WATER CO	YES	YES	YES	Amer St Water (NYSE:AWR)	YES		YES				
AMERICAN WATER CAPITAL CORP	NO	NO	NO	NA							
AMERICAN WATER WORKS CO INC	YES	NO	NO	NA							
AQUARION CO	YES	NO	NO	NA							
ARTESIAN RESOURCES CORP	YES	YES	YES	Artesian Resources (NASDAQ:ARTNA)	YES		NO				Not in Value Line
AZURIX CORP	YES	NO	NO	NA							
BIRMINGHAM UTILITIES INC	YES	YES	YES	Birmingham Utilities (AMEX:BIW)	YES		NO				Not in Value Line
BIW LTD	NO	NO	NO	NA							
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE CO	YES	YES	YES	California Water Svc (NYSE:CWT)	YES		YES				
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP	YES	YES	YES	NA							
CAYMAN WATER CO LTD	YES	NO	NO	NA							
SANEAMENTO BASICO DO ESTADO DE SAO PAULO SABESP	NO	NO	NO	NA							
SANEAMENTO DO PARANA SANEPAR	NO	NO	NO	NA							
CONNECTICUT WATER SERVICE INC / CT	YES	YES	YES	Connecticut Water Service, Inc. (NASDAQ:CTWS)	YES		YES				
CONSOLIDATED WATER CO LTD	YES	YES	YES	Consolidated Water Co. Ltd. (NASDAQ:CWCO) *	YES		NO				NONE
CONSUMERS WATER CO	YES	NO	NO	NA							
DOMINGUEZ SERVICES CORP	YES	NO	NO	NA							
ELIZABETHTOWN WATER CO / NJ	YES	NO	NO	NA							
ETOWN CORP	YES	NO	NO	NA							
GENTRY RESOURCES INC	??	NO	NO	NA							
HOLIDAY GULF HOMES INC	??	NO	NO	NA							
IWC RESOURCES CORP	??	NO	NO	NA							
MIDDLESEX WATER CO	YES	YES	YES	Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ:MSEX)	YES		YES				
PENNICHUCK CORP	YES	YES	YES	Pennichuck Corporation (NASDAQ:PNNW)	YES		NO				Merger Target
PHILADELPHIA SUBURBAN CORP	YES	YES	YES	Phila Suburban Cp (NYSE:PSC)	YES		YES				
SJW CORP	YES	YES	YES	S J W Cp (AMEX:SJW)	YES		YES				
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER CO	YES	NO	NO	NA							
SOUTHWEST WATER CO	YES	YES	YES	Southwest Water Company (NASDAQ:SWWC)	YES		NO				NONE
UNITED WATER RESOURCES INC	YES	NO	NO	NA							
VIVENDI UNIVERSAL	YES	YES	YES	Vivendi ADR (NYSE:V)	NO		NO				NONE
YORK WATER CO	YES	YES	YES	York Water Company (NASDAQ:YORW)	YES		NO				Not in Value Line

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 6

American Water Works Company, Inc. Announces Termination of the SJW Corp. Merger Agreement
American Water Works Company, Inc. Announces Termination of the SJW Corp. Merger Agreement

American Water Works Company Inc.
Voorhees, NJ, March 1, 2001

American Water Works Company, Inc. Announces Termination of the
SJW Corp. Merger Agreement

American Water Works Company, Inc., (NYSE:AWK) today announced that it and SJW Corp. (AMEX:SJW) mutually agreed to terminate the merger agreement between them effective immediately. American Water Works previously announced its intention to terminate that agreement when it expired on April 28, 2001 in light of the additional delays outlined in a procedural scheduling order issued by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on February 20, 2001. "Today's action by both companies to terminate that agreement now is, given the circumstances we confront, in the best interests of all concerned," noted Mr. J. James Barr, the president and chief executive officer of American Water Works.

"All of us who have worked so hard to accomplish the merger are very disappointed," Mr. Barr said. "But the continued uncertainty surrounding the regulatory proceeding in this matter left us no alternative."

American Water Works Company is the largest and most geographically diverse investor-owned water service provider in the nation. Its subsidiaries serve a population of approximately 10 million customers in 23 states.

This release may contain certain forward looking statements, including, without limitation, statements relating to the Company's plans, strategies, objectives, expectations, intentions and adequacy of resources, which are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward looking statements. These factors include, among others, the following: the success of pending applications for rate increases, inability to obtain, or to meet conditions imposed for, regulatory approval of pending acquisitions; general economic and business conditions; competition; success of operating initiatives, advertising and promotional efforts; existence of adverse publicity or litigation; changes in business strategy or plans; quality of management; availability, terms and development of capital; business abilities and judgement of personnel; changes in, or the failure to comply with governmental regulations, particularly those affecting the environment and water quality; and other factors described in the filings of the Company with the SEC. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

American Water Works
Company, Inc.

American Water Works Company, Inc. Announces Termination of the

1025 Laurel Oak Road

P.O. Box 1770

Voorhees, NJ 08043

(856) 346-8200AWK is the trading symbol of

American Water Works Company, Inc., on the New York Stock

Exchange, on which the common stock, 5% preferred and 5%

preference stock of the Company are traded.

@waternunc.com 2001

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 7

Filings of Beneficial Ownership Changes

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Gas Companies Annual filings of SEC Forms 4, 5, 13d, and 13g by Year

	2003	2002	2001	2000
AGL RESOURCES INC	33	10	3	1
ATLANTA GAS LIGHT CO				
ATMOS ENERGY CORP	14	13	7	1
ENERGEN CORP	63	53	14	2
KEYSPAN CORP	74	1	4	1
KEYSPAN ENERGY CORP /NY/				
N J RESOURCES (NYSE:NJR)				
NICOR INC	25	5		
PEOPLES ENERGY CORP				
PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS CO INC	1	17	1	1
SOUTH JERSEY INDUSTRIES INC	12	1		
WGL HOLDINGS INC	1			

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 8

**Value Line Betas
Are Not Standard Practice**

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BETAS AND THEIR SOURCES						
Companies Used In Tennessee American's Analysis	Sources on the Internet					
	Yahoo	Lycos	Thomson	Standard & Poors	CAPD Calculation	Value Line
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Amer St Water (NYSE:AWR)	0.02	0.02	0.42	0.02	0.14	0.65
California Water Svc (NYSE:CWT)	0.01	0.01	Not Found	0.03	-0.01	0.60
Connecticut Water Service, Inc. (NASDAQ:CTWS)	-0.07	-0.07	-0.36	-0.07	-0.11	0.45
Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ:MSEX)	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.45
Phila Suburban Cp (NYSE:PSC)	-0.28	-0.28	0.31	-0.29	-0.35	0.60
S J W Cp (AMEX:SJW)	0.55	0.55	0.33	0.56	0.54	0.55
Atlanta Gas Light (NYSE:ATG)	0.25	0.25	0.43	0.25	0.24	0.70
Atmos Energy Cp (NYSE:ATO)	-0.01	Not Found	0.52	-0.01	0.00	0.60
Energen Cp (NYSE:EGN)	0.26	0.26	0.48	0.24	0.27	0.75
Keyspan Corp (NYSE:KSE)	Not Found	Not Found	0.43	0.22	0.18	0.65
N J Resources Cp (NYSE:NJR)	0.09	0.09	0.31	0.09	0.07	0.65
Nicor Inc (NYSE:GAS)	0.22	0.22	0.60	0.22	0.26	0.80
Peoples Energy Cp (NYSE:PGL)	-0.01	-0.01	0.36	-0.03	-0.02	0.75
Piedmont Nat Gas Co (NYSE:PNY)	0.10	0.10	0.40	0.11	0.09	0.65
South Jersey Ind (NYSE:SJI)	0.14	Not Found	0.16	0.13	0.15	0.50
WGL Holdings Inc (NYSE:WGL)	0.14	0.14	0.43	0.14	0.13	0.65
American Water Works (NYSE:AWK)	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found		

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 9

The Value Line Mask

Value Line Beta Is .35 + Two-Thirds of Calculated Beta

Calculated Values
'Masked' by Value
Line Procedures

Calculated Beta	Value Line Beta
0.00	0.35
0.10	0.42
0.20	0.48
0.30	0.55
0.40	0.62
0.50	0.68
0.60	0.75
0.70	0.82
0.80	0.88
0.90	0.95
1.00	1.02

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 10

AWW Price Unaffected by the Market

Date:	AWW Closing Price	AWW Percent Change	S&P 500 Index	S & P Index Percent Change
12/31/2001	41.75		1148.08	
1/31/2002	43.05	3.11%	1130.20	-1.56%
2/28/2002	43.11	0.1%	1106.73	-2.08%
3/28/2002	43.8	1.6%	1147.39	3.67%
4/30/2002	43.7	-0.2%	1076.75	-6.16%
5/31/2002	43.51	-0.4%	1067.13	-0.89%
6/28/2002	43.21	-0.7%	989.82	-7.24%
7/31/2002	43.65	1.0%	910.60	-8.00%
8/30/2002	44.47	1.9%	915.70	0.56%
9/30/2002	44.66	0.4%	815.28	-10.97%
10/31/2002	44.78	0.3%	885.76	8.64%
11/29/2002	44.37	-0.9%	936.31	5.71%
12/31/2002	45.48	2.5%	879.82	-6.03%
1/9/2003	46.03	1.2%	927.57	5.43%
Total Change		10.3%		-17.9%

Calculated Beta: ZERO
 Value Line Beta: .35

AWW's Price Changes Very Little While Market Gyrates

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Chart 1 of 1

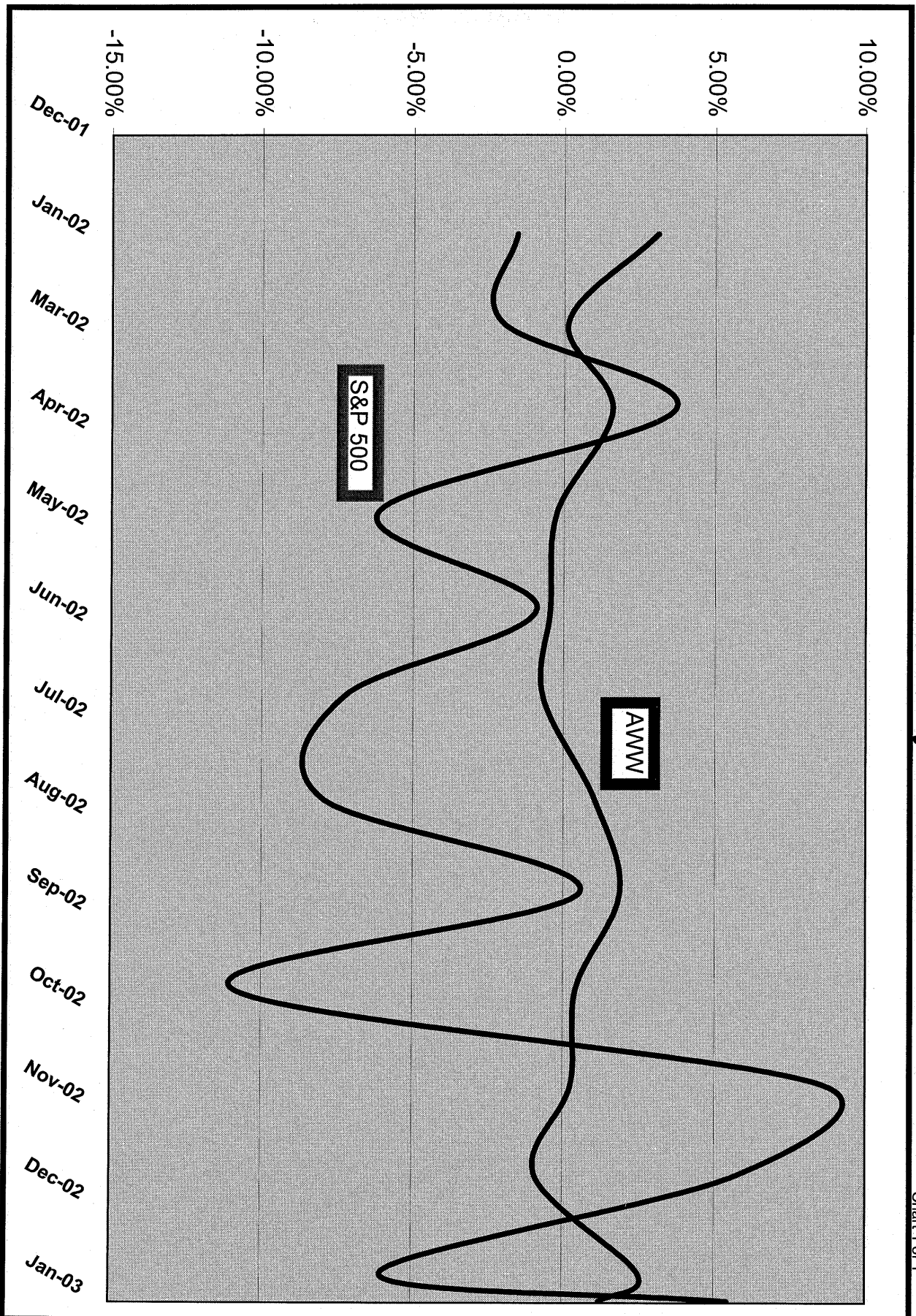


EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 11

SHORTENING TIME PERIODS MAY GIVE THE PERCEPTION OF HIGHER RETURNS TO EQUITY

YEAR	Large Company Total Return Index For Year	Year-To-Year Percentage Change In Large Company Total Return Index
(1)	(2)	(3)
1925	1.00	
1926	1.12	11.60%
1927	1.54	37.54%
1928	2.20	43.58%
1929	2.02	-8.44%
1931	0.86	-43.34%
1932	0.79	-8.15%
1933	1.21	53.87%
1979	106.11	18.44%
1980	140.51	32.42%
1981	133.62	-4.91%
1982	162.22	21.41%
1983	198.74	22.51%
1984	211.20	6.27%
1985	279.11	32.16%
1986	330.67	18.47%
1987	347.97	5.23%
1988	406.46	16.81%
1989	534.46	31.49%
1990	517.50	-3.17%
1991	675.59	30.55%
1992	727.41	7.67%
1993	800.08	9.99%
1994	810.54	1.31%
1995	1113.92	37.43%
1996	1370.95	23.07%
1997	1828.37	33.37%
1998	2350.89	28.58%
1999	2845.63	21.04%
2000	2586.52	-9.11%
2001	2279.13	-11.88%
2002	1775.34	-22.10%

YEAR	Large Company Total Return Index For Year	Year-To-Year Percentage Change In Large Company Total Return Index
1979	106.11	18.44%
1980	140.51	32.42%
1981	133.62	-4.91%
1982	162.22	21.41%
1983	198.74	22.51%
1984	211.20	6.27%
1985	279.11	32.16%
1986	330.67	18.47%
1987	347.97	5.23%
1988	406.46	16.81%
1989	534.46	31.49%
1990	517.50	-3.17%
1991	675.59	30.55%
1992	727.41	7.67%
1993	800.08	9.99%
1994	810.54	1.31%
1995	1113.92	37.43%
1996	1370.95	23.07%
1997	1828.37	33.37%
1998	2350.89	28.58%
1999	2845.63	21.04%
2000	2586.52	-9.11%
2001	2279.13	-11.88%
2002	1775.34	-22.10%

BIAS IS 2%

BIAS IS 2.8%

*Source: Ibbotson Associates 2003 Yearbook:
 Column (2) - From Table B-1
 Column (3) - From Table A-1

BIASED

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 12

July 2002

Report for the
Australian Competition
and Consumer
Commission

Empirical Evidence on Proxy Beta Values for Regulated Gas Transmission Activities

Final Report

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In a recent draft decision, the Victorian Essential Services Commission has referred to recent research that may shed some light on the default premium embedded in the yields on corporate bonds, and thus provide more insight into the likely magnitude of the debt beta.⁴³ Elton *et al.* have provided estimates of the breakdown of the yield on US corporate bonds of different credit ratings and terms into the default premium, risk premium and tax premium (the last factor has less significance for Australia) for debt of different terms and credit ratings.⁴⁴ The ESC interpreted this research as implying that a default premium of 0.28 percentage points would apply for debt with a ten year term and BBB+ credit rating. If liquidity premia were negligible, then this would imply an expected return to debt of 0.92 per cent (using the assumptions noted above), and a debt beta of approximately 0.15. However, as we do not know the size of any potential liquidity premium, this remains an upper limit of the debt beta.

Accordingly, for the purposes of this report, a range for the debt beta of 0 to 0.15 will be used.

Should the Concern be with Asset Betas or Equity Betas?

Where asset betas are estimates for a group of comparable entities, and (for example) the average asset beta for the group is then re-levered for an assumed financing structure to be used as a proxy beta, care needs to be taken to adopt consistent assumptions between the de-levering and re-levering stages. There may be sound reasons for using a different leveraging methodology for the different stages in some instances – for example, to take account of differences in taxation regimes across countries. However, it is possible to misinterpret empirical data if inconsistent leveraging/de-levering approaches are used in the different stages without sound reasons or inadvertently (with different assumptions about the debt beta particularly important).⁴⁵

In order to avoid the potential for misinterpretation of empirical data, this report will focus on the proxy equity beta that is consistent with the standard benchmark gearing assumption of 60 per cent debt-to-assets.

⁴³ Essential Services Commission (Victoria), 2002, Review of Gas Access Arrangements: Draft Decision, pp.231-233.

⁴⁴ Elton, E., M. Gruber, D. Agrawal, C. Mann, 2001, 'Explaining the Rate Spread on Corporate Bonds', *Journal of Finance*, Vol. LVI, No. 1, pp.247-277.

⁴⁵ This point was illustrated by the former Office of the Regulator-General. It showed that the proxy equity beta (for a gearing assumption of 60 per cent debt-to-assets) derived from a hypothetical but plausible set of empirical observations could vary from 1.0 to 1.6 if inconsistent assumptions about debt betas were made between the de-levering and re-levering stages. The resultant effect on the estimated cost of capital is substantial: Office of the Regulator-General, 2000, Electricity Distribution Price Determination 2001-2005, Volume 1, Statement of Purpose and Reasons, p.268.

Equity betas can only be compared for consistent gearing (which is why it is common practice to derive asset gearing as a confounding factor). However, as all Australian energy regulators have accepted an assumption of 60 per cent debt-to-assets as the standard gearing benchmark, the equity betas assumed by various energy regulators are directly comparable.⁴⁶ In contrast, however, different regulators' assumed asset betas *may not be comparable* if those betas reflect different de-levering/re-levering approaches (and, in particular, different assumptions about the magnitude of debt beta). Moreover, as the CAPM is only being used to estimate the cost of capital for the equity financed portion of regulated Australian gas transmission activities, it is the equity beta – not the asset beta – that is the relevant input into the cost of capital estimation.

3.4 Pooling of Beta Estimates

As discussed in section 2.5, even where a beta estimate is available for a particular stock, it is common practice to 'pool' that beta estimate with those of a set of comparable entities in order to improve the precision of the beta estimate. Where a beta estimate for a particular activity is not available (for example, because the entity undertaking the activity is not listed on a stock exchange), the use of comparable entities to derive a proxy beta is made necessary.

The most common method of 'pooling' various beta estimates is to focus on one of the measures of central tendency for the beta estimates for the set of comparable entities, with the simple average of the beta estimates a common measure. The standard error of the average beta across a proxy group will be lower than the average standard error of the individual betas, with the precision of the average of the proxy group rising (ie standard error falling) with the number of firms added to the proxy group.⁴⁷ The simple average of the set of proxy betas will be used in this report as the principal means of pooling betas.

One issue that arises when using an average (or even other measures of central tendency, such as the median) is whether beta estimates that are negative should be excluded from consideration. There are two potential responses to this finding.

- A negative beta could be interpreted as outside of the reasonable bounds for a beta for regulated gas transmission activities (or any other utility activity), and thus excluded to minimise the likelihood that extreme observations could bias the beta estimate.
- Alternatively, where the expected beta is low, and the standard error is high, a certain proportion of negative betas should be expected. Moreover, for every point estimate of an equity beta that is at the lower-end of a confidence interval, there may be others at the upper end. Thus, excluding only betas at the lower end of the confidence interval (ie the negative betas) may lead to bias in the beta derived from the proxy group.

⁴⁶ This gearing assumption was proposed by the utility and accepted by the regulators in the first major decisions on the cost of capital under the Gas Code (the 1998 Victorian decisions), and has been adopted in almost all energy decisions since that time.

⁴⁷ The standard error of the average beta of the proxy group will depend upon the pair-wise correlations between the various beta estimates, which is not available from commercial beta estimation services, as used in this report.

In this report, no view is taken on the relative merits of these two rather, average beta estimates with and without any observed negative betas will be reported.

One of two more sophisticated adjustments to beta estimates are made by some of the common beta estimation services, which are often referred to as the Vasicek adjustment and the Blume adjustment. Both of these adjustments may have merit when adjusting a particular beta estimate for a firm, and when projecting a future beta for a particular firm. The Vasicek adjustment is useful where the goal is to derive a beta estimate for a particular stock, for which a beta estimate can be observed individually, and the Blume adjustment may be a convenient means of responding to expected management tendencies over a future period. However, neither of these adjustments is considered appropriate where the objective to derive a proxy beta for (pure-play) regulated gas transmission activities, and this proxy beta is based upon estimates from a carefully selected set of comparable entities.⁴⁸

The Vasicek adjustment^{49,50} takes the weighted average of the beta estimate for an individual company, and the simple average for a 'peer group' of entities (the prior distribution), with the weighting in inverse proportion to the variances of the distributions from which the estimates are drawn.

To the extent that the 'peer group' that is used by the beta estimation service in the Vasicek adjustment is similar to the group of comparable entities used to derive the proxy beta, the application of the Vasicek adjustment is likely to have little effect on the average of the group.⁵¹ However, to the extent that the peer group differs – and betas for entities that undertake activities that were judged not to be sufficiently comparable to regulated gas transmission activities would be taken into account – then bias to the estimate of the proxy beta may be introduced.

As noted in section 3.2, the relevant peer group employed by the Ibbotson service most relevant to gas transmission are firms classified in the two-digit industry code Electric, Gas, and Sanitary Services. While this will include a number of firms that are not considered sufficiently comparable to regulated gas transmission activities, any bias introduced may not be substantial – and, indeed, the average of the Ibbotson adjusted betas is not substantially different to the average of the raw betas. In contrast, the London Business School service uses all listed companies as the peer group, which may introduce bias in the beta estimate.

⁴⁸ The discussion in this section draws upon Lally, M., 1998, 'An Examination of Blume and Vasicek Betas', *The Financial Review*, Vol.33, pp 183-198; and Lally, M., 2000, *The Cost of Equity Capital and Its Estimation*, McGraw-Hill Series in Advanced Finance Volume 3, Sydney: McGraw-Hill, p33-35.

⁴⁹ Vasicek, O., 1973. A note on using cross-sectional information in bayesian estimation of security betas, *Journal of Finance* 26: pp 123-129.

⁵⁰ Lally, M., 2000. *The Cost of Equity Capital and Its Estimation*, McGraw-Hill Series in Advanced Finance Volume 3, Sydney: McGraw-Hill, p 34.

⁵¹ If the standard errors of the beta estimates for all of the firms in the peer group are identical, then the average of the Vasicek adjusted betas will be identical to the average of the raw betas. In any other case, the average of the Vasicek betas will place more weight upon the beta estimates that have a lower standard error.

The *Blume* adjustment^{52,53} also involves taking a weighted average of the equity betas and a prior distribution, except that the prior distribution is set equal to one (that is, an equity beta of one).⁵⁴ Further, one of the rationales for the *Blume* adjustment is to take account of a tendency for beta values of firms to tend to a value of one over time. That is, the adjustment is based upon two prior beliefs about betas:

- in the absence of any information, a reasonably prior belief is that a beta of a stock is one – being the market average beta; and
- empirically, betas tend to get closer to one over time.

With respect to the first of these reasons for the *Blume* adjustment, as with the *Vasicek* adjustment, the use of a prior distribution that includes all firms may introduce bias into the proxy beta that is derived. Certainly, taking account of information from all firms is somewhat at odds with carefully selecting the group of comparable entities that is used to derive the proxy beta.

Regarding the tendency of betas to regress towards one over time, it is accepted that there is empirical support for the phenomenon of beta convergence (even after the potential for the estimation method to find a spurious relationship is taken into account).⁵⁵ However, these studies attribute the regression in equity betas to conscious behavioural decisions of management – for example, by undertaking investment projects with less extreme risk characteristics, or by manipulation of financial structures (eg by equity issues, leveraged buy-outs and equity carve-outs).⁵⁶ Indeed, in a Reserve Bank of Australia working paper, Sheutrim finds a motive for the manipulation of equity betas by managers, finding a positive relationship between events that may be adverse to managers – namely, the probability of the firm being delisted.⁵⁷

While allowing for such a management tendency may well be reasonable when projecting forward the estimated equity beta for an actual entity, it has less relevance for the estimation of the cost of capital for the regulated activities of gas transmission entity. In particular, as the objective is to derive the cost of capital associated with a pure-play gas transmission business, any prospective change to the equity beta arising from diversification into other activities would be introducing irrelevant information. Likewise, regarding changes to leverage, a better approach is to adjust betas explicitly for changes to gearing (using the theoretical relationship between equity betas and gearing, discussed above). It is noted, however, that if the 'regression' of equity betas over time and the associated change to gearing were both taken into account, the asset beta that would be derived would most likely remain unchanged.

⁵² Blume, M., 1971. On the assessment of risk, *Journal of Finance* 26, pp 1–10. Blume, M., 1975. betas and their regression tendencies, *Journal of Finance* 30, pp 785–95.

⁵³ Lally, M., 2000. *The Cost of Equity Capital and Its Estimation*, McGraw-Hill Series in Advanced Finance Volume 3, Sydney: McGraw-Hill, p 34.

⁵⁴ As noted in section 3.2, a *Blume*-adjusted beta is provided in the standard output from the Bloomberg service.

⁵⁵ The existing empirical evidence – as well as further evidence – is presented in: Sheutrim, G, 1998, Systematic Risk Characteristics of Corporate Equity, Research Discussion Paper 9802, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney.

⁵⁶ Brailsford, T.J., Faff, R.W. and Oliver, B.R., 2000. Research design Issues in the Estimation of Beta, McGraw-Hill Series in Advanced Finance Volume 1, Sydney: McGraw-Hill, p28; Sheutrim, G, 1998, Systematic Risk Characteristics of Corporate Equity, Research Discussion Paper 9802, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, p. 8.

⁵⁷ Sheutrim, G, 1998, Systematic Risk Characteristics of Corporate Equity, Research Discussion Paper 9802, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, p. 23.

Accordingly, this report uses the raw beta estimates produced by each of the beta estimation services.

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EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 13

DCF Analysis, Results and Equity Debt Ratios

Dividend History

Water Company	(1) 1998	(2) 1999	(3) 2000	(4) 2001	(5) 2002	(6) (%)	(7) (%)	(8) (%)	(9) (%)	(10) (%)
Amer St Water (NYSE:AWR)	0.84	0.85	0.86	0.87	0.87	0.88	3.420	4.30	45.87	54.13
Artesian Resources Corporation (NASDAQ:ARTNA)*	0.97	1.06	1.10	1.11	1.16	4.57	3.590	8.16	44.44	55.56
Birmingham Utilities (AMEX:BIW)*	0.34	0.40	0.50	0.58	0.50	10.12	2.600	12.72	76.30	23.70
California Water Svc (NYSE:CWT)	1.07	0.81	1.10	1.12	1.12	1.15	5.190	6.34	54.64	45.36
Connecticut Water Service, Inc. (NASDAQ:CTWS)	0.78	0.79	0.79	0.80	0.81	0.95	3.270	4.22	53.76	46.24
Consolidated Water Co. Ltd. (NASDAQ:CWCO)*	0.19	0.20	0.34	0.40	0.42	21.93	2.920	24.85	94.34	5.66
Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ:MSEX)	0.77	0.79	0.82	0.83	0.85	2.50	3.800	6.30	46.51	53.49
Pennichuck Corporation (NASDAQ:PNNW)*	0.59	0.69	0.73	0.76	0.81	8.25	2.480	10.73	52.63	47.37
Phila Suburban Cp (NYSE:PSC)	0.43	0.45	0.47	0.50	0.54	5.86	2.400	8.26	46.08	53.92
S J W Cp (AMEX:SJW)	2.34	2.40	2.46	2.57	2.76	4.21	2.490	6.70	58.48	41.52
Southwest Water Company (NASDAQ:SWWC)*	0.15	0.16	0.19	0.21	0.22	10.05	1.820	11.87	50.00	50.00
York Water Company (NASDAQ:YORW)*	0.47	0.47	0.49	0.51	0.53	3.05	2.960	6.01	53.19	46.81
Average	0.75	0.76	0.82	0.86	0.88	6.13	3.08	9.21	56.36	43.64

*Company Not Used In Mr. Moul's Analysis
Source: www.morningstar.com

Mstar Data for PNNW
1998 corrected by CAPD.
Mstar showed .31

Mstar Data For CWCO
1998 corrected by CAPD.
Mstar showed .15

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 14

Docket No. 03-00118
Exhibit CAPD-SB 14

[illegible]

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 15

Water Companies Betas

Docket No. 03-00118
 Exhibit CAPD-SB 15
 Direct Testimony _____
 Schedule 15 _____
 Page 1 of 1 _____

Betas From Yahoo As of May 15, 2003

Company Industry Sector S&P 500

Water Company

Amer St Water (NYSE:AWR) (NASDAQ:ARTNA)*	0.06	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Birmingham Utilities (AMEX:BIW)*	0.17	-0.04	0.20	1.00
California Water Svc (NYSE:CWT)	0.20	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Connecticut Water Service, Inc. (NASDAQ:CTWS)	0.07	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Consolidated Water Co. Ltd. (NASDAQ:CWCO) *	-0.11	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ:MSEX)	0.14	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Pennichuck Corporation (NASDAQ:PNNW)*	0.26	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Phila Suburban Cp (NYSE:PSC)	-0.05	-0.04	0.20	1.00
S J W Cp (AMEX:SJW)	-0.25	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Southwest Water Company (NASDAQ:SWWC)*	0.55	-0.04	0.20	1.00
York Water Company (NASDAQ:YORW)*	0.08	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Average	0.04	-0.04	0.20	1.00
Average	0.10	-0.04	0.20	1.00

EXHIBIT CAPD-SB 16

Tennessee-American Water
 Cost of Capital
 For the 12 Months Ending March 31, 2004

Line No.	Parent:	Ratio	Cost	Weighted Cost
1	Common Equity	56.00%	9.21%	5.16%
2	Debt	44.00%	6.00%	2.64%
3	Total	<u>100.00%</u>		<u>7.80%</u>
	Tennessee American:	Ratio	Cost	Weighted Cost
4	Short Term Debt	6.2%	3.50%	0.22%
5	Long Term Debt	20.8%	7.62%	1.59%
6	Preferred Equity	1.6%	5.01%	0.08%
7	Common Equity	<u>71.4%</u>	<u>7.80%</u>	<u>5.57%</u>
8	Total	<u>100.00%</u>		<u>7.46%</u>